

*Administration of Justice*

thoroughly. The Prime Minister, speaking in the house today, has undertaken to the house that this course of action will be followed.

I simply say to hon. members opposite that this is the only reasonable way, the only fair way that this matter can be brought to a conclusion. It is the only possible way that will resolve the kind of issue of principle that has properly agitated hon. members opposite.

**Mr. Starr:** Not only that.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Especially the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton and the hon. member for Calgary North.

**An hon. Member:** Speak for yourself.

**Mr. MacEachen:** The Minister of Justice is not shirking his responsibilities.

**Mr. Starr:** He is so.

**Mr. MacEachen:** He is not.

**Mr. Starr:** He has lost his responsibilities.

**Mr. MacEachen:** He has made allegations and he has stated—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. MacEachen:** He has stated—the Prime Minister has stated that if the allegations of the Minister of Justice are proved to be unfounded then he stakes his seat on the outcome of that inquiry.

**Mr. Starr:** One moment—

**Mr. MacEachen:** What more courageous act do you want from the Minister of Justice?

**Mr. Winkler:** Let him stand up. Let him stand up.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice is now ready to stake his political future—

**Mr. Winkler:** Let him stand up.

**Mr. MacEachen:** —and his seat on the outcome of this inquiry. All I am asking—

**Mr. Starr:** Would the minister permit a question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order?

**Mr. MacEachen:** All I am asking is that hon. members realize what the Minister of Justice is prepared to do and what the government is prepared to do in terms of a comprehensive inquiry into all the allegations.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, what I say now will be somewhat inconsistent with the course I have followed because I have talked extensively myself, but there is no motion before the house. There is no action that the house can take on this matter. In the absence of any motion, in the absence of a remedy formulated by the house that can be decided upon, I suggest it is the obligation of the Chair, and I suggest this respectfully, at an early moment to suggest a course of action that would bring the house back to the order of business.

**Mr. Starr:** I should like to ask the minister a question.

**Mr. Flemming:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, since the minister has introduced my name into the debate I think I should correct the interpretation he made of my remarks. I am sure he would want me to do this. My remarks are found on page 2535 of yesterday's *Hansard*, about half way down the left hand column:

In my opinion, the Prime Minister is doing a great disservice to this country if he does not demand that the Minister of Justice get to his feet just as soon as it can possibly be arranged and give to this house the basis of the statements he made this morning to the gentlemen of the press.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Flemming:** I am stating that purely for the benefit of the minister so that he will not be under the mistaken impression that my remarks applied to what was said in the house last Friday and did not apply to the press conference which the Minister of Justice had with the gentlemen of the press.

**An hon. Member:** He knew what was said.

**Mr. Starr:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the minister before we go any further? It is a repetition of the former question that the minister did not answer. Does he think, with regard to his usage if the words "fair and just" in what he said, that it would be fair and just that upon the setting up of this inquiry the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton and the hon. member for Calgary North should appear before that commission to justify their innocence in this affair?

**Mr. MacEachen:** I did not suggest that for a moment.

**Mr. Starr:** How can you proceed in this matter without the Minister of Justice specifically naming the people involved?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.