

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the minister of external affairs did not want to impute false motives to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, and perhaps he should be given an opportunity to explain.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I did not want to impute motives, of course. Perhaps the word I should have used was the word "forged".

**An hon. Member:** Shame.

**Mr. Churchill:** I am grateful to the minister now for giving me the opportunity to rise on another question of privilege with which I hope you will deal, Mr. Speaker, as it was dealt with several years ago by the former Speaker.

The minister is using the word "forged" in relation to an allegation made by himself and others on that side at the time I read into *Hansard* a letter which had come into my possession bearing the signature of Mr. Butterworth. At that time, when this matter was considered, the Speaker ruled that such an accusation could not be made with regard to my action.

As the minister has now, in an attempt to malign me, used this word, I hope further encouragement from me will suggest to his alert mind that he should withdraw such an expression because he must, I think, watch his image across the country in connection with future leadership capabilities.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I remember the incident to which the hon. member refers because I believe I was accidentally in the chair at that moment, and I would think that again the Secretary of State for External Affairs should be given an opportunity to indicate to the house that he does not want to impute motives. Certainly hon. members of the house, and particularly senior members, should be particularly careful in the expressions they use.

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

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend has said I have been in the house a long time, and I think I do understand the motives of members opposite. I sat in the opposition myself. But when hon. gentlemen start needling they must expect a response. I do not want to impute any motives. I do not want to be unfair to my hon. friend, and I forgive him for anything he may have said about me.

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

[Mr. Churchill.]

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is now trying to make a joke of a very serious matter. All he has to do is withdraw the accusations and the situation will be cleared up.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I made no accusations against my hon. friend.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I expect it would be using unparliamentary language if the minister, or any other hon. member, accused another hon. member of knowingly using forged documents. There is no question whatever that forged documents can come accidentally into the hands of any member of the house. If an hon. member represented such documents as authentic certainly this would be wrong, and it would be unparliamentary to suggest that documents are being used in this way. I suggest to the Secretary of State for External Affairs that he should indicate to the house that he did not make a reference to the use of documents in this way.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I made no accusation against my hon. friend. He is the last person in the world against whom I would make such an accusation, and that is the situation. I told him that I did not impute motives. Within the rules of the house I had no right to do so and in fact was not doing so. I would ask him to be equally generous.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I regret I am still not satisfied with this. The suggestion that I have at any time used in this house a forged document is a despicable attempt to attack my reputation. You yourself, Mr. Speaker, mentioned that forged documents might accidentally come into the hands of members. I have no knowledge that ever in my lifetime has a forged document appeared in my possession.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Without getting into an argument that may go on for hours I submit it is not unparliamentary—and this is what I have said before—to suggest that a member has had in his possession or has quoted a document which is not authentic if the hon. member does not know it is not authentic. Unless the minister has said anything beyond this I really do not see what he has to withdraw.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on this question of privilege. I think we have come pretty low in this house when a senior member like the