

members of this house know very well that where an amendment which has the effect of ruling out a motion made—

Mr. MacINNIS: I rise to a point of order. If the Prime Minister is permitted to discuss a ruling made in the house, then every hon. member has a right to discuss that ruling. The ruling has been made, and before Your Honour made it we did not get an opportunity to say whether or not the ruling was in order. I object to the Prime Minister making an issue of it at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the Prime Minister is not discussing the ruling which was made by the Speaker.

Mr. MacINNIS: He is discussing the ruling.

Mr. CHEVRIER: He was discussing the conduct of the opposition, and he has a perfect right to do so.

Mr. KNOWLES: The Prime Minister is not God.

Mr. MacINNIS: That is one way of getting away from discussing the cost of living.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If it will enable us to get a little nearer to the appointment of this committee I am prepared to end the discussion at this point. But I think the point I was making was pretty clearly understood by hon. gentlemen—

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member has the floor.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I want to know whether in saying he is willing to drop it the Prime Minister is withdrawing what he said when he imputed dishonesty to everyone who voted against the ruling. I want to know whether he withdraws it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, Mr. Speaker, I must confess I am a little terrified by the look of my hon. friend. Notwithstanding that, I must say to him that all that I have said I have said for the best of reasons and it is in no way intended to reflect—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —and in no way intended to reflect on anyone. I was referring to something that has happened in this house, an unfortunate practice that is growing up.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is my hon. friend shaking his head so much for? I have said nothing to cause him any feeling. I have said what every hon. member knows to be the fact; they know certain amendments—

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I rise again on a question of privilege. I want to know whether the Prime Minister has withdrawn the imputation which he made against everyone who voted against this ruling when he said that it was a dishonest vote. That is what he said.

Mr. ABBOTT: No, he did not.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I want to know whether he withdraws it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, hon. members know very well that I have no intention of casting any reflection on any member of parliament with respect to his honesty, and I have not done so.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Why not say so?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not done so, and I have nothing to withdraw.

Mr. KNOWLES: I rise to a point of order. I humbly request Your Honour to rule whether the Prime Minister has been in order or out of order in his discussion of your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I understand, as I said a few minutes ago, that the Prime Minister has not been discussing the ruling which has been given by the Speaker. He is reviewing what happened during the debate. I do not think that the Prime Minister has imputed any motives to hon. members.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. SPEAKER: He gave his opinion of what happened during the debate.

Mr. MacINNIS: It is no wonder that rulings are appealed.

Mr. CHEVRIER: He is discussing your conduct, and you do not like it.

Mr. KNOWLES: If it is your ruling that the Prime Minister is in order, I respectfully appeal your ruling to the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would ask the hon. member to recall that in discussing a ruling which I gave on an amendment I drew hon. members' attention to the fact that often some hon. members seem to be of the opinion that in ruling an amendment out of order the Speaker rules against its merit. The same thing applies to a motion to adjourn the