

Supply—Justice

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, I move, and if it requires a seconder, seconded by the hon. member for Queens, that the committee rise.

An hon. Member: But it was not seconded before.

The Deputy Chairman: Will the hon. member make a formal motion so that the Chair may put the motion before the committee?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, having listened to speakers from both sides of the house and especially to those who are now dealing with a statement made by the President of the Privy Council, I think that the latter has made the situation quite clear. He said that he would withdraw all the offensive words he used or any of his remarks that could be harmful to the reputation of the hon. member for Yukon. Does the member for Yukon want the minister to lick his feet? The minister is willing—he said so himself—to withdraw the words which might be offensive to the hon. member. Why, then, introduce a motion and delay the business of the house?

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I would have something to add in this connection—

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

[*English*]

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I might make a direct, personal appeal to the President of the Privy Council with respect to this matter.

Mr. Churchill: What about my motion? I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion in front of you. It should be acted upon.

Mr. Knowles: I suggest—

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Chairman, on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre—

Mr. Muir (Lisgar): You have not been recognized yet.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, but I heard the hon. member speak and I am sure the motion he put is not in the form he intended in order to accomplish the purpose that I think he has in mind. I wonder whether the hon. member would look at the wording of his motion. I am sure he intended that there should be leave for the committee to sit again. If he

[*The Deputy Chairman.*]

will look at the words of the motion again he will agree with me. The motion does not say that the committee shall have leave to sit again.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Chairman, while the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is thinking about that may I have the indulgence of the house to direct a personal appeal to the President of the Privy Council. I ask him, as one who has not got into this debate at all and as one who has not tried to quote the rules at him, to appreciate the fact that he may have made a mistake—

Mr. Churchill: May have? He did make a mistake.

Mr. Knowles: —a mistake which will do damage to today's session of parliament and may do continuing damage. I ask him also to realize that if he will withdraw the words unequivocally he will have the respect of all members of this house, and I ask him to do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Chairman, I said a few minutes ago that the public interest was more important than the interest and pride of individuals. I withdraw unequivocally.

The Deputy Chairman: Will the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre withdraw his motion?

Mr. Churchill: Do I understand that the President of the Privy Council is withdrawing unequivocally every charge that he made?

Mr. Pickersgill: That is what he did.

Mr. Churchill: He did not add those extra words. What is he withdrawing? That is what I want to know.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Churchill: I am not going to be shouted down by anybody. When he said he was going to withdraw unequivocally, what has he withdrawn? He withdrew the word "lie". Has he withdrawn the other accusation? That is what I want to know.

The Deputy Chairman: The committee and the Chair heard very distinctly the President of the Privy Council say he withdrew his remarks.

Mr. Knowles: Unequivocally.

The Deputy Chairman: Yes, unequivocally.

Mr. Nielsen: May I say, Mr. Chairman, that I accept the minister's withdrawal and also