

reflect upon Your Honour's remarks. The purpose of my intervention was to make it very clear that if there are private persons and unauthorized persons operating within the precincts of parliament and placing bugs, that is a criminal offence. It is not up to any particular member to complain about it, it is an offence under the Criminal Code, which involves far more than the individual member of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: It clearly involves the privileges of all members of parliament. It clearly involves breaches of the criminal law away beyond the right of any particular member of parliament. I urge upon Your Honour that time is of the essence in these matters, that they do involve breaches of the law, and that it is in the interests of members of parliament and of this institution that we be protected against those violations of the law.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: With respect, I do not think we need further elaboration on this point. In the case of both members whose offices or equipment have been involved, I suppose we could project ahead to the point where they might say, "There has been some allegation that we have brought to your attention as Speaker, but we do not want it pursued any further."

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if that is about to happen. I only know we are ahead of ourselves. If that were to happen, I am simply projecting that the rest of the House, or the administration of justice, may have some rights in the matter. At the moment, I think it is only courtesy to the members involved to conduct a preliminary investigation and say to them that further investigation should probably go forward with their request, assistance and co-operation. If that were not to take place, I would advise the House; but surely we must come to that point first.

[Translation]

MR. BEAUDOIN—REMARKS IN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege over a very important matter concerning an article published in the newspaper *Le Devoir* on October 29.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that reporter Pierre O'Neil has harmed my reputation. He has told lies about me in an article entitled:

From One Caucus to Another without Scruples

I would like to quote Mr. O'Neil:

Mr. Beaudoin attended the regional caucus of Liberal members of Parliament convened by Urban Affairs Minister André Ouellet to study the housing problem in the Montreal area.

Mr. Speaker, the reporter should have listened, read or learned about the matter before writing such things. This

meeting was held in Montreal on Monday, October 24, and was aimed at informing all members from the Montreal area and the Eastern Townships about the new Urban Affairs programs. The mayors of all municipalities involved were invited and—

● (1522)

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is nearly impossible to hear the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Richmond.

Mr. Beaudoin: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mayors of all the municipalities concerned were invited, and as far as I know they are not all Liberals. I am a federal member of parliament and when the time comes to work for my constituents, whenever possible I attend all meetings which could improve the lot of the people of my riding. Since most members from the province of Quebec are Liberals I am sure we are working together on these specific projects. That does not change in any way my personal political affiliation, that is my being a member of the Social Credit Party of Canada. Reporters who make up stories to destroy the reputation of federal members of parliament should be reproved by all federal members, whatever their party. To please certain reporters and prove them right we are soon all going to have to sit in separate places. I think that during an election we should fight for our own ideologies and principles and outside election campaigns we should all, without exception and whatever our allegiance, work together for the better-being of our ridings, provinces and country.

I think the newspaper *Le Devoir* should correct that falsehood about me, and I urge all media to get informed before they publish stupid stories like that. We are always available to answer their questions and they could then write articles based on facts, not wishes or dreams.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin) raised a question of privilege relating to the newspaper *Le Devoir* and one of its employees, Mr. Pierre O'Neil. It does not relate to a member of parliament or things relating to this House. So this does not constitute a question of privilege as such but rather a very important and significant grievance.

[English]

MR. BALDWIN—REMARKS OF PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege which relates to what was said by the Prime Minister a little while ago, and by the Minister of Justice. Before the Prime Minister left—as he said, to meet the press—the leader of our party gave him formal notice that I intended to raise this question, as did the House leader.

The Prime Minister, making an intervention following what was said by my hon. friend from Central Nova, made it clear that in his mind the device might well have been planted by members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. The Minister of Justice, in his contribution, went on to aggravate the situation