

out determining or seeking to determine what the media should do. I do not think we should want to limit the freedom of the press in Canada, and if the media chose yesterday to broadcast in part what went on in the House of Commons I think that in a country where freedom exists that is still their privilege. I understand the hon. member's disappointment that his party should not attract more attention than necessary at this time but that is not the fault of the House of Commons.

In my opinion, Canada enjoys a freedom of the press which must be respected and, as far as we are concerned, our duty as members of the TV and radio broadcasting of proceedings of the House and its committees is to see to it that everything said in the House be taped to form a kind of electronic *Hansard* available to all people, be they Social Credit members, citizens or news broadcasters.

In the past, Mr. Speaker, the journalists used to choose what they wanted to report from *Hansard*, so I would humbly submit that they did the same yesterday when broadcasting what they found to be most proper or most interesting in what went on in the House of Commons.

On the other hand, as a member of the committee I am prepared to discuss the question and I feel this is a privilege we have; but unfortunately we did not have time to look in depth into that question on account of the urgency and of your dispatch in presiding over this committee in order that the TV and radio broadcasting of the proceedings of the House could begin six months after establishment of the committee and at the very beginning of this session, last Tuesday.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Never would I have thought a French Canadian could abet injustice to that extent!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I also rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Témiscamingue.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I regret to have to report that a Crown corporation which is allowed by the committee of the House of Commons to film the debates in the House of Commons systematically refuses to report the position of a political party which was elected the same way any other political party in this House was. This situation cannot be tolerated. This is why the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) made it a question of privilege.

On the first day when the debates were televised, the CBC did indeed show the intervention of three political parties but refused to show an image of the fourth political party. The next day they finally agreed to show a short sequence. Yesterday, during the debate on the minibudget, the same thing happened again, that is the CBC refused once again to report the position of the fourth political party and went even further than that. What cannot be tolerated, Mr. Speaker, is when a commentator on the French network takes away the remarks made by the representative of the Social Credit Party of Canada and puts them in the mouth of the representative of the New Democratic Party. We therefore ask you to make

representations to the committee in order to correct this situation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) has raised a question which directly deals with the actions of the CBC, but not precisely the actions or specific procedures of the House of Commons. In such a case, it would not exactly qualify as a question of privilege with regard to the actions of the House of Commons. However, this is a rather complicated subject which we will certainly discuss on a permanent basis in the special committee on the broadcasting of the proceedings of the House and its committees which was recently reconstituted by the House. This will certainly be one of the most important subjects of discussion for this committee on which, it goes without saying, there is a spokesman for the Social Credit Party of Canada, the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise), so it is clear that this subject matter will have to be discussed in that committee. But obviously as it directly relates to the actions of the CBC but not to the actions of the House of Commons, this matter cannot be raised as a question of privilege.

● (1202)

[English]

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Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege which pertains to the Minister of Finance. But he has left the chamber, so I shall wait and raise the issue on Monday, when I expect he will be here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I meant to preface my remarks in recognizing the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby as he had telegraphed the nature of the proposed question of privilege. It seemed to me to be a classic disagreement in interpretation of the actions of the government vis-à-vis the Export Development Corporation. One of the things about which the hon. member would have to persuade the Chair is that it is more than a disagreement and extends to a question of privilege if and when it does arise.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I rise on what I hope is a question of privilege. It affects the operation of the House, it affects the rules of procedure, and in an important way concerns the procedure adopted by the government last night with respect to the statement made by the Minister of Finance.

I am not going to deal with the merits of the statement, adequate or inadequate as it was, depending upon one's point of view. Something happened in this House, however, which I think impedes the rights of members, and, if allowed to continue, could impede the rights of members to make comments on budgetary matters. In addition, it merges into the tradition of the debate on the Speech from the Throne, which is a broad and searching consideration of the government's whole policy, fiscal and monetary and budgetary considerations.