

Question of Privilege

[Text]

—the unity that encourages the equal partnership of two peoples on which this confederation was founded—

[Translation]

But some high government officials are actually undermining the work undertaken by the Prime Minister when they speak in these terms. It is primarily this kind of action that I oppose. And crowning the whole absurd and stupid business, the R.C.M.P. chief commissioner states:

[Text]

The commissioner accused Mr. Grégoire of trying to obtain some cheap publicity—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Grégoire: There are some people in this house who can recognize themselves when we speak about "cheap".

—to obtain some cheap publicity by asking the R.C.M.P. to defer arresting him until today, during the flag raising ceremony on parliament hill.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, this is utterly false. There never was any question of it between the R.C.M.P. and myself. It is not I who asked this member of the R.C.M.P. to come back on Monday, but the Clerk of the House of Commons. Besides, how could I presume to dictate to the R.C.M.P. at what time they should arrest me? They could do it Monday morning or Monday afternoon if they wished. This is a silly and unsound charge.

Mr. Speaker, another privilege was violated. It is said that I was notified in French. It is true that the first summons was served in my office by two members of the R.C.M.P., but as regards the second one it was a violation of hon. members' immunity; I was in my seat in the House of Commons listening to the house debates when I was summoned to the door, here in the lobby, by means of a small card, saying that it was an urgent matter. As I came to the lobby an R.C.M.P. officer presented me with a summons to appear. This is absolutely against the immunity of members of parliament and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the officers of the R.C.M.P. have a lot to learn as regards law and legality.

Mr. Speaker, it is said:

[Text]

It was served by a French speaking R.C.M.P. constable.

[Translation]

This is where the accommodation given to me in French is explained.

[Mr. Grégoire.]

[Text]

The warrant was read to him in French.

[Translation]

The summons was served to me in English by means of a paper, but to accommodate me, out of the ordinary, I was given oral translation in French, which is again completely abnormal and has no legal effect.

As for the brutal force which is denied by the commissioner, here is what he says later:

[Text]

The constables radioed R.C.M.P. for further instructions and were told to use whatever force was necessary to place him in the car.

Note the expression "whatever force was necessary".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I would be most interested to know the name of the person who issued an order at headquarters, advising them to use whatever force was necessary to get me in the car. I entered the automobile and I almost went out the door on the other side. And it is said:

[Text]

One of the constables then grabbed Mr. Grégoire by the arm and put him in the car.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of getting into the car of my own free will, but I did not intend to fight the three six-foot officers of the R.C.M.P. I intended to remain passive, at least as a matter of principle. I did not want to get into the car by myself, but if the R.C.M.P. had to take those means they could have done so less brutally. Furthermore, they admit it themselves.

[Text]

His wrist watch strap was broken while he resisted.

[Translation]

I never tried to resist. The chief commissioner concludes his statement by saying:

[Text]

The warrants of committal to jail, and all other documents, were translated into French by the justice department to accommodate Mr. Grégoire.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, since when is it up to the Department of Justice and its staff to assume R.C.M.P. responsibilities? That is exactly what happened.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I think there is more to this than what the President of