

Mr. MacNICOL: What is the hon. member doing now?

Mr. BLAIR: We have a right to unite our efforts, and tell our friends. I have great admiration and respect for every hon. member of the house. I have respect for the men I have criticized. But I must say they are imposing upon the committee. This house is not the first court of the land; the first court of the land is back in the country. And back in the country there is being created a spirit of bitter hatred for some Frenchmen, and for some men from Toronto, too—

Mr. MacNICOL: Especially from Wellington North.

Mr. BLAIR: —because they are holding up the business of the house. All the accusations against the Minister of National Defence are not called for. I have watched him for many years in the house, and I have every admiration for him, nor have I any criticism to make whatsoever. I hope he will be allowed to attend to his duties as Minister of National Defence.

Mr. POULIOT: I rise to a question of privilege. I have the greatest admiration for the eloquence of the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Fulford) and the hon. member for Wellington North (Mr. Blair). They are two of the best speakers in the house, and—

The CHAIRMAN: I would ask the hon. member to come to his question of privilege as quickly as possible.

Mr. POULIOT: I will do that. The hon. member for Leeds has stated that the member for Temiscouata has taken the whole time of the house. Well, sir, those facts should be established from *Hansard*. I deny completely what the hon. member has said. I made a few remarks on Monday—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POULIOT: —and on Tuesday there is very little in the name of the hon. member for Temiscouata. Yesterday I was not even in the house; I came here just about adjournment. And to-day what did I do? I spoke for only five or ten minutes. All the time was taken by other hon. members, and I admit it is their right to speak. I never want to take more than my share.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POULIOT: Of course, what has been said to-day was organized behind the curtains. But no one will prevent my using my privilege

[Mr. Blair.]

to defend the rights of my electors and the citizens of this country. If certain hon. members are afraid to do their duty, I am not; and I will continue to do it. I will never be frightened by them. They may look well at the bull moose and the bull buffalo in front of the ladies' gallery, because they will never be reelected, because both the hon. member for Leeds and the hon. member for Wellington North will bite the dust at the next election.

Mr. BRUCE: I wish to take the time of the committee for a few minutes to set the record straight. I was able to read only last night of what took place the previous evening when I was absent from the house, and when the Minister of National Defence made some comments which affected me. He stated, as reported at page 3008 of *Hansard*, when referring to me:

He was singling out the chief of combined operations, the men who had to do with that operation beginning with General Montgomery, who was in the southeast command at the time and under whom our troops were operating; the chief of the imperial general staff, and all those who had to do with making the plans for that operation.

I made no reference whatsoever to the men who made the plans for the operation. I had no thought of criticizing General Montgomery, and was not aware that he was in England at the time, but presumed he was in North Africa. I made no criticism whatsoever of the other leaders there, or of Lord Mountbatten, or Lord Lovat, or General McNaughton, or any others who were taking part in planning that campaign.

My reference was to the commander of the military force—

An hon. MEMBER: Who?

Mr. BRUCE: I did not mention his name, because I did not wish to do so. However, since the minister—

An hon. MEMBER: Who is he?

Mr. BRUCE: I will mention it in a moment; just be patient, please. However, since the Minister of National Defence has made a statement which, in order to correct, forces me to state to whom I referred, I shall do so in a moment.

In the first place I should like to say that the minister read a long extract two evenings ago from the book called "Combined Operations", a copy of which I have been able to secure only to-day. He states that the extract