

Privilege—Mr. Crosbie

for by the Government. I am quite willing to confirm that there is such a film, it was on television in Newfoundland last Thursday night, and I highly recommend that members recall it on their systems and have a look at it. They will find that there is absolutely no partisan political material in either that TV program or in the pamphlet which has not been produced in this House by the Leader of the NDP. How can the man complain of a document he has not seen? He is not a Newfoundland and until someone down there mails him a copy of this pamphlet how can he complain? He has not read it, he has not seen it, and when he does read it and see it he will no longer have an excuse for his abysmal ignorance of the fishery problems in the Canada-France treaty.

There is no question for you to decide upon concerning my allegedly breaching the privileges of the Members of this House. None whatsoever. There is nothing before you.

If I might just address my own question of privilege, the Hon. Member for Oshawa says he paid for the mailing. If he says he paid for it, I am not going to say he did not. I will simply say that it would be interesting to see when it was paid and how much was paid for mailing 36,000 pieces of mail apparently.

Mr. Tobin: About \$201.

Mr. Crosbie: About \$201. That is quite a bargain, because if they all went out at 34 cents apiece for 36,000 pieces of mail it would be \$12,240.

Mr. Benjamin: Do you accept his word or don't you?

Mr. Crosbie: I would like to see how much was paid for this mailing.

Mr. Benjamin: You do not accept his word? Make up your mind.

Mr. Crosbie: I want to see how much was paid for the mailing and by whom. If the Hon. Leader of the NDP says the Party paid for it, let us see the evidence. The way for that to be done is in the committee to be set up on this question, if Your Honour rules that there is a prima facie case of a breach of privilege. I would then like to see who paid for the stationery, because the stationery used is that of the Leader of the NDP in his capacity as an MP. Did the NDP pay for that?

Mr. Murphy: Yes.

Mr. Crosbie: We would like to see that, and the envelope as well. Those are some of the questions which remain unanswered.

Mr. Benjamin: You do not take his word?

Mr. Crosbie: They are not answered by the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) tottering in here, living in the past and producing letters sent out years ago by Members who are long departed—

Mr. Murphy: Joe Clark?

Mr. Crosbie: —some of them to the Senate and some to the grave.

Oh, how it hurts these souls of sanctimony to be caught and hung on their own petard violating the rules of this House for partisan political advantage. Hypocrites anonymous no longer, just hypocrites, that is what they are.

I refer once again to the rules on allowances and services. Under unacceptable requests, as I read to you before, Part B concerns material of a partisan political nature, which this is. Then further on down we have reference to the reproduction on letterheads such as Party stationery and so on. If you go on to Part F, you will find reproduction of material prepared by Party research offices. We got the distinct impression today, and perhaps someone over there would like to deny it, that this material was prepared by the NDP research office. If so, they have no right under the rules to reproduce and send that material out under the franking privileges or otherwise of this House.

Was all this referred to the printing unit so that it could review the material to see whether it met with the rules? It was not.

Mr. Benjamin: It is automatically.

Mr. Crosbie: I would ask you to rule, Mr. Speaker, that there has been a prima facie breach of the privileges of the Members of this House.

Mr. Benjamin: It never went to the printing unit, you bonehead.

Mr. Crosbie: This kind of activity by the NDP has to be stopped. Just as they did in the B.C. provincial election, they are now attempting to break every rule in the book when it comes to the St. John's East by-election. But I will tell them this: They will never see an NDP Member elected from St. John's East, never, even if they send out 500,000 pieces of mail from now until the end of July. There will be no NDP Member elected, not even with this sanctimonious breach of the rules of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1600)

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has listened with care to the interventions which have been made. The Chair will consider the problem, which seems real enough, and will consider whether or not it is a question of privilege and, if not, how it might be resolved.

The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) has waited patiently to raise a question of privilege.