

Question of Privilege

parliament hill; and also in view of the fact that the R.C.M.P. acted in a shameful and brutal way toward a member of parliament, I feel that I should give explanations to the house concerning this question of privilege, which, as a matter of fact, I intended to raise today, as you know very well.

In the first place, I would like to mention that it is true that I received two tickets, a traffic ticket and a parking ticket, written in the two official languages of the country.

Second, I received a summons to appear, written in English, with an unofficial French translation, unsigned, not on an official document but on a piece of paper, and in very bad French at that.

Third, I received a payment notice written in English only, with no French translation attached.

Fourth, the warrant for my arrest served on me by the R.C.M.P. on parliament hill was written in English only.

In the fifth place, I was denied all requests to call a lawyer at the time of my arrest and when I arrived at the Carleton county jail.

In the sixth place, I was prevented from getting in touch with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) when there was absolutely no danger that he could help me to escape.

In the seventh place, I suggest that I was brutally arrested, because after refusing to follow the R.C.M.P. officers or to pay as long as the warrant for my arrest was not served on me in French—I made it a matter of principle—and even though I gave that reason, three officers who collectively tipped the scales to at least 600 pounds, when I do not even weigh 130 pounds pounced on me in a way—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Grégoire:—which foreshadowed some vengeance. The first constable twisted my right arm behind my back. The second one pulled my left arm strongly enough to break my wrist watch strap, which I can table here in the house. And the third one—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Grégoire: And the third one pushed me into the car with his knee against the small of my back.

And furthermore, Mr. Speaker, as the final indignity, the R.C.M.P. took me, a Quebec citizen, who had committed an offence while on my way to the federal parliament, while I was on federal government territory, while all proceedings against me had been instituted by the R.C.M.P., to a jail in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to quote a statement made by Hon. Lionel Chevrier at the time when he was minister of justice, on June 25, 1963, in answer to a question I put to him in the house. I quote:

For the hon. member's information, I might say that in the case of an offence committed on parliament hill or on the driveways coming under the jurisdiction of the R.C.M.P., it is customary to issue summons in both languages.

That is the statement made by Hon. Lionel Chevrier on June 25, 1963. However, in my case that was not done at all.

I have here, Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the chief commissioner of the R.C.M.P. Mr. George McClellan, and I quote from the *Toronto Telegram* of February 15, page 2:

[Text]

He—

—the commissioner—

—also insisted that the R.C.M.P. went out of its way in the French language to accommodate the M.P.

[Translation]

It was for my own convenience that French was used. To his mind, it is not a question of right or privilege but merely a question of accommodation.

On that very day the governor general stated on parliament hill:

Your language is a precious asset, for the French language and the French literature are of great value not only for French Canada but also for English Canada.

But Commissioner McClellan stated that French was used for my convenience; it was only used to accommodate me, that is his opinion, and to confirm this he stated on another occasion:

Outside the normal course of his business, in unusual circumstances. If he used French it was only for the convenience of a member of parliament, while in the normal course of business conducted by the R.C.M.P., French does not exist for citizens as a whole, but simply for the convenience of a member of parliament.

I must say that after reading almost all the remarks sent to me by a large number of citizens and associations throughout Canada, I am seriously thinking of introducing a motion requesting an inquiry concerning the R.C.M.P. chief commissioner. The Prime Minister made an excellent speech yesterday, when he said: