

Service”, “The Conservative Government News Service”, or the “P.C. Government News Service”. That is a different thing because its title conveys very clearly that it is a news service of one particular political Party.

I know that the wise Member sitting in the back, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), certainly agrees with me because he is giving me his very wise and shrewd look. I am sure that if he were not a Member of the Ministry, he would rise in the House and make the very same arguments I make today. I know he supports me. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to look very seriously at the arguments we have made.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take up what the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville (Mr. Nystrom) just said. He referred to the fact that “parliamentary” refers to all of us. I think it may be a significant point, especially when I look at the communiqué of the New Democratic Party which has its logo appropriately at the top of the page and the words: “The New Democrats”. At the bottom it has the logo of the House of Commons.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): No.

Mr. Friesen: I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that while the bottom of the page may refer to all of us, the top of the page certainly does not, especially when the news release indicates that: “Mr. Broadbent will address delegates of the Nova Scotia NDP convention in Halifax”. That is something that is not of great interest to all of us.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): It should be.

Mr. Friesen: He purports, by using the House of Commons logo, to make it something of general interest to all of the House of Commons. I assume he avoided the word “parliamentary” because that Party has rejected the other place, otherwise they would have incorporated both.

I then refer to a news release communiqué put out by “John Nunziata, official Opposition critic for the Solicitor General”, appropriately in red. It has the House of Commons logo on it, plus the words “House of Commons”. I would suggest that this is not something of terribly great interest to the entire House or to the entire general public, but it does give the impression when the Hon. Member uses the House of Commons logo, that it has the imprimatur of the entire House of Commons. It seems to me that there is a blatant misuse of what is probably House of Commons stationery, but what is certainly the logo and the rights of all Members, when those Members try to give the impression that this is a House of Commons matter when what the New Democratic Party put out was propaganda about the tour its Leader was putting on in Nova Scotia.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the bogus issue the Hon. Member raised ought to be dispensed with as quickly as possible.

Privilege—Mr. Boudria

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) has raised a very important topic this afternoon in his question of privilege. I think we all understand the battle the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) has had with the CBC and the media generally. We may even sympathize with him. However, we do not agree that he should be using the name “Parliamentary News Service” to overcome those difficulties.

It seems to me that the name “Parliamentary New Service” sounds a lot like the CBC News Service. So when a listener in some remote part of the country is listening to a report which is called “Parliamentary News Service”, he would not realize that this is part of the Government’s propaganda machine. The fact that government Members opposite are guffawing at the prospect of the CBC News Service being confused with the Parliamentary News Service, which they are trying to put forward, shows exactly the problem.

• (1540)

It seems to me that a person watching the Parliamentary News Service will see Ken Lawrence, who is a regular member of the Press Gallery who has been running programs from a TV news service which he operates or for which he has worked, suddenly presenting favourable stories on the Government. However, there is a conflict there in that he is not a regular member of the Press Gallery in the normal sense of the word. He is a person working for the PC Party and promoting its position. It seems to me that it is easy for people to be confused since everyone is not closely watching these things the way that Members of the House watch them.

I think the Hon. Member’s question of privilege bears close study by the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure. I hope that Your Honour will find that there is a *prima facie* case of privilege so that this matter can be referred to the committee where it can be fully aired.

When the committees of the House were set up at the start of this session of Parliament there was small representation on most of those committees by members of the Official Opposition and members of the New Democratic Party. Those committees were usually composed of between 12 and 15 members. We fought very hard to ensure that there had to be at least one member from the Opposition at those committee hearings. If that were not the case, then a committee composed of only government Members would travel across the country or hold public hearings here in Ottawa portraying itself as a committee of the House of Commons when in fact the Parliament of Canada, the House of Commons, includes both government Members and opposition Members.

There is the same type of conflict in the use of the name “Parliamentary News Service”. It seems to me that if Your Honour rules that there is a question of privilege here with respect to the word “Parliamentary” then it should not be used and the Government should go back to calling this service the “PCP News Service”, “Information Tory”, “Prop Can”, or