

Mr. HANSELL: I thought you said a copy of our final report to parliament.

The CHAIRMAN: No, a copy of the proceedings to date including the adoption of the steering committee's report. That will tell them everything. Mr. Pouliot has asked to appear before the committee and I will now call on him.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: May I be permitted to come before you for the protection of my fundamental freedom of speech. The other day my colleague, Mr. Church, and myself expressed our personal and honest views about U.N.O. The *Montreal Star* has this sentence in an editorial which was published on Wednesday, June 25th, last week.

Were the characters involved in this episode other than they were, this debate would assume national importance. It would be rightly interpreted as a resurgence of old style isolationism—the kind of doctrine which above all else brought on what Mr. Churchill has called “the unnecessary war”. It will be so interpreted in Moscow and elsewhere, for the students of public opinion in those parts can hardly be expected to know very much about the irresponsibility of Mr. Church, Mr. Pouliot, and their strange allies from Alberta.

My point is that this committee is studying human rights and is trying to find a remedy for their protection. I am working under the same roof as the committee does, my colleagues who sit on the committee and hon. members of the Senate. Before looking after the human rights of people outside this house, I should like to have the fundamental rights of those inside the house protected by the committee.

If you ask me for a suggestion I will give it to you right away. It is that as to these mercenary journalists of the *Montreal Star* who call some members of parliament irresponsible there should be a sanction, and the only sanction would be to deprive the correspondents of that paper of the right to sit in the press gallery and report the debates of the house.

The time has come when human rights and fundamental freedoms must mean something. When there are mercenary journalists who are the slaves of plutocrats and are public exploiters it is time to stop them and teach them a lesson. Otherwise this committee will serve no purpose whatever.

I come here as the member of parliament for Temiscouata. I want to be respected by those gangsters, the owners of the paper and its chief editor. If there is no sanction I will seek for other means.

I hope that the committee has not been scandalized, but my speech has been along the lines of the reference that has been made to the committee. If human rights are to be protected then you must start by protecting them here or otherwise this committee will be the laughing stock of the country if it does not protect those who are under the same roof and who are insulted by these gangsters of the press.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pouliot asked for the privilege of appearing before this committee. I thought as a member of parliament he was entitled to that privilege. My difficulty about the request he has just made is that I doubt very much if it is within the terms of reference of the committee. I believe it is not. Is there any discussion?

Mr. HAZEN: I might refer Mr. Pouliot to page 71 of the minutes of proceedings, volume 4, in which the judgment of Sir Lyman Duff on the reference of Alberta's accurate news bill to the Supreme Court is quoted at some length. In the course of that judgment he says:

Even within its legal limits, it is liable to abuse, and grave abuse, and such abuse is constantly exemplified before our eyes; but it is axiomatic that the practice of this right of free public discussion of public affairs, notwithstanding its incidental mischief, is the breath of life for parliamentary institutions.