

I think you, Sir, will have to come down hard and fast on what is contained in the newsletters of Members of Parliament, and we are prepared to live with that because we pay our bills. We might be slow but we pay them.

I have another letter which reads as follows:

Dear Supporter,

I want to bring to your attention our Party's financial statement for 1979.

I must say I am proud that individuals are responsible for more than 81 per cent of PC Party contributions—the highest per centage of all Canadian political parties.

I think he has the statistics wrong but that does not matter. The letter goes on:

We in the PC Party have always believed our roots sprang from a belief in individual initiative—

Et cetera, et cetera, *ad nauseam*. It goes on:

I am sure you will join me in expressing sincere gratitude to PC Canada Fund Chairman Terry Yates, and his board of directors.—

It is not a political Party, it is a corporation and it should be subject to the corporate laws of Canada. It goes on:

—for ensuring that our Party can meet its financial commitments—

I would be happy to provide the Chair with a copy of the envelope. By the way, Mr. Speaker, this letter was sent to me asking me for a donation. I have here more requests for donations from the PC Canada Fund than you can shake a stick at. It just shows how hard up the Tory Party is when it asks me for donations. I would give it something for a welfare cheque but nothing else. This letter came addressed to me at 21st Avenue in Regina and it was signed by, would you believe, the Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark).

I defy the Hon. Member for St. John's West and anyone else in the House to find anywhere else that kind of blatant soliciting of funds or peddling of so-called news at the expense of a Department of the Government so obviously aimed at pursuing political purposes.

● (1550)

Now that this can of worms has been opened, I invite you to go over the record and rule that from now on, in fact even retroactively, every Member of this House will be sent a Bill for the printing, stationery, and postage, the whole damn works.

Mr. Nunziata: Ed could not afford it.

Mr. Benjamin: I have a newsletter coming out next month and I hope you will examine it carefully. If I am wrong in any part of it, send me a bill and I will pay it. My Leader has already paid the bills for this one.

Mr. Crosbie: Let us see them.

Mr. Thacker: When?

Mr. Benjamin: Does the hon. gentleman not accept my Leader's word?

Privilege—Mr. Crosbie

Mr. Lewis: He did.

Mr. Benjamin: He accepted the word?

Mr. Crosbie: Let us see them, that is all I am saying.

Mr. Benjamin: That means you do not accept his word.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, yes, we do.

Mr. Crosbie: You do what you like and I will do what I like.

Mr. Benjamin: Make up your mind. The problem is that when it comes to Newfoundland we have too many members that are liars.

Mr. Crosbie: You are not going to have another one from there.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I think you should rule that if Hon. Members from all Parties—

Mr. Tobin: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I think I can anticipate the point of order. The Hon. Member just said that when it comes to Newfoundland we have too many members who are liars. The Hon. Member was very careful not to say which ones were among the too many. I am sure the Hon. Member is only expressing a point of view which, perhaps, goes to occasional lapses of accuracy by Hon. Members no matter what part of Canada they come from. I am sure he is not trying to call any particular Member from Newfoundland or all members together liars, and I am sure he would like to indicate that through the Chair.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I am perfectly prepared to withdraw it. I was trying to use a Newfoundland accent where they talk about "lawyers". If my colleagues from Newfoundland take offence, I withdraw unequivocally.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, may I just say a few words in conclusion?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the House will permit the Minister to say a few final words, and then the Chair will consider the matter and report back to the House in due course.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, with reference to my question of privilege, I properly gave you notice in writing before two o'clock this afternoon of a question of privilege with respect to this letter sent by the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent) to the electorate of Saint John's East. The NDP Leader alleges that he laid some kind of a notice of breach of privilege against me. It was not done in writing or in accordance with the rules and nothing has been produced which the Hon. Leader of the NDP is alleged to be complaining about, namely that a pamphlet or document has been sent to every household in Newfoundland dealing with the Canada-France fisheries dispute. No document was presented by the Leader of the NDP of which he complains. He says there is some kind of half-hour documentary film, about which he complains, paid