

I regret any inconvenience this may have caused you and rest assured that all necessary steps will be taken to remedy this.

With best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,  
D. F. Washburn,  
Sergeant, No. 1588

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I had been arrested for the fun of it and condemned by mistake.

I would not say all officers are stupid, but even if there were only 5 per cent of them, the establishment of an independent body as is now proposed would really be essential for the protection of the public.

The third reason why I support this amendment, is that I am a Quebecer and, as a matter of fact, because Quebecers do not hold the Bar and the Bench in very high esteem. On March 9, 1970, one could read on the front page of the Quebec newspaper *Le Soleil* the following, and I quote:

The Quebec people have no great regard for the Bar and the Bench, according to the findings of three public opinion polls published today in Montreal.

These polls were taken at the request of the Royal Commission on the administration of penal and criminal law presided over by the Assistant Chief Justice of the Court of Social Welfare, the Hon. Yves Prevost.

Two of them were conducted by a group of researchers under Professor Denis Szabo, head of the Department of Criminology at the University of Montreal, and the third was effected under the guidance of Professor André Normandeau.

Like the people of the province, criminologists were consulted and Appendix No. 6 is entitled: "The Quebec people on criminality and penalties"; let us note that the authors assume all the credit and responsibility for these polls.

That article shows us what is happening in Quebec, with regard to the Bar and to the Bench.

And those who have commented on the findings of this survey have stated, and I quote:

Some 62.4 per cent of Quebecers think that lawyers are hypocrites, 20.2 per cent believe that they are rather useless to society, 43.1 per cent consider them dishonest and 34.4 per cent go so far as to say that they are thieves.

Furthermore, according to the Quebec people, the law profession—

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. Is the hon. member for Charlevoix rising on a question of privilege?

**Mr. Asselin:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

I am a member of the Quebec Bar and I say that the hon. member's assertions are absolutely without foundation and, furthermore, the survey merely concerned itself with a sample group and did not produce any conclusive evidence.

• (8:20 p.m.)

I must say that lawyers are respected in Quebec. They are not all hypocrites and thieves. I must add that the hon. member's comment has nothing to do with the debate now under way. I would ask the Chair to call him to order.

# Public Order Act, 1970

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. The Chair must inform the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin) that his question of privilege is not motivated. It is rather a question of procedure. The hon. member has not broken into a torrent of abuse against an hon. member or against Her Majesty. However, I would like to take this opportunity to point out to the hon. member for Portneuf (Mr. Godin) that even if up to now the Chair has allowed some latitude to hon. members and that some of them have temporarily digressed from the subject under consideration, he must limit his remarks to the amendment under consideration.

**Mr. Godin:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members know how sensitive I am and incapable of expressing malevolent views or making charges.

I am merely quoting a newspaper article supporting the motion before us. Nothing in our Standing Orders could prevent me from quoting a newspaper article. I would ask the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Asselin) to please be patient. At the end of my speech, he will realize that he stands among a number of good lawyers. Indeed, if he had been bad, he would now fill another position in society. It is because he is honest that he is nothing more than an ordinary member of Parliament.

For the information of the hon. member for Charlevoix, I was quoting the following:

Only 8.5 per cent of the people think that the law is a distinguished profession, while 49.8 per cent feel that physicians rank first.

Moreover, most of the people interviewed (59.1 per cent) consider that criminal lawyers' fees are too high. What is even worse, Quebecers do not have any regard either for the Bench. Indeed—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. After having appealed to the goodwill of the hon. member, the Chair must once again ask him to restrict his remarks to the amendment now before us. To my knowledge, the House is not now judging the Bar, lawyers or other people and to develop this line of argument does not contribute anything to the progress of the debate.

**Mr. Godin:** Mr. Speaker, I take leave to read the text of our amendment once again:

That Bill C-181 be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole House for the purpose of reconsidering clause 12 with a view to the inclusion therein of a provision for the establishment of an independent body to review the administration under the said bill.

We want an independent body to be set up, Mr. Speaker, precisely because we find this, in my article. I quote:

—the poll revealed that 43.3 per cent of the people feel that judges are individuals with prejudices, 34.4 per cent feel that they are uncomprehending, 30.1 per cent accuse them of being corrupt—

On the other hand, 21.9 per cent of those who answered believe that judges are appointed solely because of their political convictions.

If it were not the case, Mr. Speaker, we doubtless would have felt that the amendment before the House was not required.

It is precisely to provide for such cases that we want an independent body to review the administration of the