

and, in my judgment, it was not a proper one to go on the Order Paper, as it was founded on a newspaper clipping relating to subjects which are not proper for the consideration of this House. Rule 37, which governs the asking of questions by members, reads as follows:

Questions may be put to ministers of the Crown relating to public affairs—

This, in my judgment, does not relate to public affairs.

—and to other members, relating to any Bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the House, in which such member may be concerned.

The question that was submitted to me did not, in my judgment, relate to public affairs. Part of it related to bilingual schools, which are under the control of the provincial Government. Another part of the question asked whether the Government had received any protest regarding the reading of the prayers in French by the Speaker of the House every second day. That appeared to me to be too frivolous to put on the Order Paper.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to state my case—yes or no?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has a right to do it, if he brings it up as a question of privilege.

Mr. WILSON: In order that there shall be no misunderstanding, I rise to a question of privilege; and the first privilege I claim is to state my case in both English and French. I have read of Richelieu saying that the execution should sometimes take place before the trial, but this is not such a case. My case is this: on Friday last, I put in the hands of Dr. T. B. Flint—

Mr. SPEAKER: May I ask the hon. member to state his question of privilege? I shall then be in a better position to judge whether it is or is not a question of privilege.

Mr. WILSON: I am rising to a question of privilege, and I want to state my case. I ask you frankly, Mr. Speaker, whether I am to be allowed to state my case—yes or no? Je vous demande, monsieur l'Orateur, si j'ai le droit d'exposer mon cas. I wish to state my case.

Mr. PELLETIER: The hon. member asked, in French, to be allowed to state his case, and proceeded to make comments. Surely my hon. friend understands—he speaks English very well—that the Speaker asked him to state his question of privilege

and not to make comments. I think a spirit of fairness should prevail here.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: I made no comments at all. I am going to speak in this House in both languages, and I am going to state my case in English first, then in French, so that every hon. member will understand me. On Friday last I put in the hands of Mr. Laplante and Dr. Flint the following question:

Mr. C. A. Wilson—On Thursday next—Inquiry of Ministry—1. Has the Government, or any member thereof, received the communication referred to in the following announcement, published in the Sentinel of March 19, 1914.

'Collingwood Lodges protest against French in Schools and on Post Cards and Government Stationery—Express dissatisfaction with local Representatives.

'The brethren of L.O.L. Victoria, No. 934, and Golden Lion No. 1990, Collingwood, at their regular meetings held on the 9th and 11th of March, 1914, adopted the following resolution, and instructed their secretaries to forward same to the Orange Sentinel, to the Hon. R. L. Borden, Ottawa, and to acting Premier, the Hon. J. J. Foy, Toronto, also to their representatives, Col. J. A. Currie, Ottawa, and Hon. Jas. Duff, Toronto:

'Moved by Bro. Wm. Elliot, P.M. L.O.L. 1990, seconded by Bro. Peter McMillan, W.M. L.O.L. 943, and resolved:

'That we, the members and officers of Victoria Lodge No. 943, and Golden Lion No. 1990, assembled at our regular meetings, take this opportunity of condemning in the strongest terms the action of the federal Government in permitting the issuance of the bilingual post cards, and the use of the French language upon official stationery of the departments, and consider this departure an insult to the other nationalities, such as Germans, Highland Scotch and others, inasmuch as the English is the language of this country.

'We also demand the immediate abolition of bilingual schools, as English must be the only language taught in our public schools, if we desire to grow up as a united body of citizens. And we do not uphold the attitude of our representatives in both Parliaments, as so far we have not noticed that they have taken any part, or raised their voices in opposing any of those encroachments, which is bound to be detrimental to the unity of this country.'

2. If so, what was the answer, or what were the answers given?

I also put in the hands of Dr. Flint question No. 3, reading:

3. Has the Government, or any member thereof, received any protest on account of the fact that His Honour Mr. Speaker, recites prayers in the French language in Parliament every second day of sitting?

Dr. Flint corrected this question as follows:

Has the Government received any protest on account of the fact that the Speaker of the House of Commons recites prayers in the