

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

---

**Wednesday, January 25, 1967**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

### PRIVILEGE

MR. BOULANGER—REPORTED STATEMENTS BY  
MEMBER FOR LAPOINTE

**Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege pursuant to citation 105(3) of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, as well as citation 108(3), citation 110, citation 111(D) and citation 113.

As a member from Montreal island, I maintain that I have been subjected to an unfair and slanderous attack by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire). That attack on my integrity and competence, which constitutes a breach of my privileges as member for Mercier, follows from an item published in the newspaper *La Presse* of Tuesday, January 24, 1967, under the signature of Mr. Gilles D'Aoust, in which he quotes the hon. member for Lapointe as having stated in Quebec city recently: "that save for a few exceptions, the representatives from the Montreal area in the House of Commons make the worst membership of incompetents there is". The article also reports other unfounded and malicious accusations along the same lines.

Pursuant to the standing orders, I ask the Clerk to read the excerpts which I find libellous toward some of my colleagues, and I now table this newspaper clipping.

I deny the member for Lapointe any competence and judgment to decide whether or not any hon. member is competent. I may add that this is not the first time he takes the liberty to make such malicious accusations outside the house against his colleagues, which accusations tend to destroy the prestige of this parliament in the minds of Canadians, to the point where many wonder whether these are not, on the part of the leader of this separatist party, tactics intended to destroy governmental institutions in our country.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Therefore, I move that the member for Lapointe be summoned by the house to appear before the committee on privileges and

elections as soon as possible to answer for his repeated, unjustified and libellous attacks against myself and several members of the house.

The article appeared only yesterday in the newspaper *La Presse* and I referred my question of privilege to you at the first opportunity.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Mercier sent me notice of his question of privilege, as required by standing orders, together with the newspaper clipping. According to citation 113 of the fourth edition of Beauchesne, I now ask the Clerk of the house to read the excerpts considered reprehensible by the member for Mercier.

#### **The Clerk:**

Federal members from the Montreal area are called incompetents by Mr. Grégoire. However, he makes exceptions for Messrs. Charles Drury, John Turner and Pierre-Elliot Trudeau.

The federal member of parliament for Lapointe, Mr. Gilles Grégoire stated yesterday that, save for a few exceptions, the representatives from the Montreal area in the House of Commons constitute the "worst membership of incompetents" there is.

The M. P. strongly blames the Montreal members for having failed to defend the interests of their region in this matter.

Mr. Grégoire blames the members from Montreal, and the Quebec members generally, for placing the interests of their party ahead of the interests of their region. Apart from a few men like Messrs. Drury and Turner, the members from Montreal, according to him, are not serious.

**Mr. Gérard Loiselle (St. Ann):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words on this question of privilege. I shall be brief, but I should like to note certain points of this same statement. The hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) seems to be trying to assume the role of defender of the port of Montreal. I should like to inform him that while he was busy with his personal affairs, we, in the House of Commons, were defending the interests of the port of Montreal. We did not need the ideas of the separatist member to encourage us to work in the interest of our electors. Having been elected in 1957, I was among the first, in 1958, to work on behalf of the port of Montreal. I hope that the hon. member for Lapointe, who considers himself as the hub of the universe, will finally realize the facts.