

*Question of Privilege*

have my name associated with such a document and you will understand why after I have read it.

I have here a copy of that mutual agreement signed before me on February 5, 1962, in the office of Mr. Hébert who claimed to represent the financial side of the Quebec Liberal party.

I will now read from a photostat copy of that document which I will then table on the clerk's desk.

**Mutual Agreement**

February 5, 1962

Group René Hébert, group Dr. Deslauriers

It is agreed by the two above mentioned groups that a company will be created for the operation and ownership of a pari mutuel race track at St. Luc, on the property now held by Dr. Deslauriers for his group. It is agreed that Mr. René Hébert will receive for his group 10 per cent of the shares of the new above mentioned company and that neither the said group nor René Hébert will have to disburse any money for acquiring 10 per cent of the shares.

(Signed) René Hébert (agreed)

Dr. Roch Deslauriers (agreed)

And, at the bottom, one finds the English translation: Mutual Agreement—to show you that bilingualism is respected when it comes to mutual agreements.

I table the copy of that document on the clerk's desk.

**[Text]**

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the house give consent to the filing of this paper?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**[Translation]**

**Mr. Dupuis:** So, I have answered the first question.

I exerted no undue influence in a race track matter. I became involved in that project in the interests of my riding of St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville and of St. Luc. In 1961, when I was concerned with that project, I was not a member of the government, but a federal member sitting in the official opposition. Besides, my involvement in the matter came to an end early in 1962.

Indeed, as soon as the project was switched to St. Hubert, in Chambly county, by Mr. René Hébert, instead of St. Luc in St. Jean riding, I stopped being concerned with it.

To answer the second question, that is whether I received a gift of \$10,000 from Dr. Deslauriers, the promoter of the race track, I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, that contrary to what was suggested in certain quarters, I never told anybody that I had

received that amount which Mr. Deslauriers pretended he had paid out, for the excellent reason that I never pocketed such an amount and that I never received directly or indirectly any benefit in that matter.

I regret that I must restrict my remarks to the minimum because the right hon. Prime Minister just informed us that the R.C.M.P. investigation in this matter is not yet concluded. I would have much more to say but I shall limit my observations at this time. I am sure, however, that this investigation will establish beyond any doubt that I never received neither directly nor indirectly any favours or gifts from Mr. Deslauriers or from anybody else as regards race track projects.

Because of malicious reports carried by certain papers, I must say at this time that I intend to fight to the very end and that I shall not capitulate before charges or innuendoes, no matter from what quarters they originate.

Mr. Speaker, if I have agreed to send my resignation to the right hon. Prime Minister, it is somewhat because I could foresee that some newspapers were ready to indulge in falsehoods about me, as I have mentioned earlier. I did not want those rumours and aspersions cast upon me to reflect on the cabinet, of which I was a member.

Besides, for some time now my name had spitefully been associated, unsuccessfully I must say, to other so-called scandals concerning my colleagues in the cabinet.

As I said earlier, I personally decided to submit my resignation; no one else had anything to do with it. I can say here that there is somewhere a statement made by an individual, and I know that such a statement started the whole chain of events which led to my resignation and that story was made up about my alleged or so-called interests in that race track.

As I said in a statement given the press the day I resigned, I was informed on my arrival from a trip in Asia and Africa, where I had carried out an official mission for the Canadian government, that an individual had given a minister of the Lesage government a statement to the effect that he had seen Dr. Deslauriers hand me \$10,000 in cash for a race track permit. That provincial minister, in all good faith, probably, sent the federal Minister of Justice a photostat of that statement.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I said before, I know there is a document—which will be disclosed in due time—in which the person who signed that false document against me or made that charge against me recognizes that he was