

Privilege—Mr. Gillis

As I explained a few moments ago that observation was thrown in for kicks. It was put in a jocular manner.

Mr. Harris: And was so taken by everyone.

Mr. Gillis: I think everyone in the house understood that. The report continues:

If Mr. Gillis has no apologies to make because he did not understand the French-speaking member, he should not boast about it. And he shows a wrong attitude and a strange spirit of Canadian citizenship when he compares French with Gaelic and puts them on the same level.

I am sure my Scottish friends will like that. It says further:

Gaelic is a foreign language in Canada, but French is not. We know that Mr. Gillis is a highly experienced politician, and he is certainly aware that the rights of the French language were

guaranteed by the Quebec Act and the British North America Act; he was merely being impertinent when he spoke thus.

A year ago, Mr. Coldwell, the leader of the C.C.F. party, stated, after the blunders which he and his party members had made, that his party would be the first one to defend the present status of the two official languages of parliament. It seems that Mr. Gillis does not share this opinion.

The only comment I have to make, Mr. Speaker, is that all ethnic groups have their quotas of screwballs and it seems they are not lacking in certain sections of this country.

Mr. Marler: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should not pay too much attention to that newspaper.

It being four minutes after six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.