

be away since he never moves when he should rise to defend his supporters of the Quebec area. He stays seated. The member for Lévis knows that he cannot even speak up to defend the newspaper *Le Soleil* of Quebec City, because the government forbids him. The government stays still and the Liberals remain seated. My friend of the Montreal area is also keeping rather quiet.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) who was looking after the interests of his people in the Mauricie district and who the other day was accusing me of not being present in the house, realizes now that I am more present in the house than he is, since he does not have the courage to stand up and fight for *Le Nouvelliste* of Trois-Rivières.

**Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois-Rivières):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

The hon. member seems to suggest that I follow dictates contrary to those of my conscience. My attitude proves at least that I am not in the pay of the large circulation newspapers of this province.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, the question of privilege the hon. member has raised shows that he has no political conscience, we know that by experience.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. The hon. member for Trois-Rivières.

**Mr. Mongrain:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member just said I had no political conscience. I think he is a very poor judge in that matter.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Trois-Rivières is aware of that. Besides, the electors in his constituency also know about it. Whenever it suits him, he supports the Union Nationale; whenever it suits him, he is independent, whenever he can get *créditistes* votes, he is in favour of Social Credit, and, after all, he is a Liberal—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I should like to ask the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette) to stick to the question under consideration.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, such is my intention; nevertheless I was speaking on the question of privilege raised by the member for Trois-Rivières.

### Post Office Act

Now I am coming to the question before us.

I think that whenever the member for Trois-Rivières raises in the future a question of privilege that is accepted by Your Honour, I will at least be able to reply to the hon. member; I shall be happy to do so, because I know him so well. So that is why I allow myself to reply to his questions of privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I shall say no more on the question of privilege, since the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) is presently as white as a sheet. He finds it hard to swallow what I have just said, because his colleagues in the Liberal party are applauding my charges against him.

Mr. Speaker, I shall now resume my remarks on Bill No. C-116. We have received plenty of telegrams from various newspapers in the province.

I while ago, I mentioned Mr. Gabriel Gilbert, publisher and general manager of *Le Soleil*. We have also received a telegram from Mr. Eric Perras—not Mr. Eric Kierans, but Mr. Eric Perras—president of the newspaper *Le Nouvelliste* in Trois-Rivières, who was opposing Bill No. C-116. We have got a telegram from *L'Action*, of Quebec City, signed by Mr. Fernand Blais, its director of public relations. Another one was sent by *Les Quotidiens du Québec, Inc.*, under the signature of Mr. André Bureau. We have received a telegram from the *Quebec Chronicle Telegraph*, signed by Mr. J. H. Moonigan, and a second one from Mr. Gabriel Gilbert, who was objecting to that same bill.

Mr. Speaker, we are against that bill. Why? Because we want first of all to protect the democratic rights. We want the public to be informed more completely and we do not want the voice of the information media to be stifled or their power diminished. That does not mean that we accept without reservations what is printed in the newspapers and all the news they publish. We have had cause to complain quite often about the way the newspapers treated us by forgetting our existence. Today we are less easily forgotten; we are reminded of that because we are considering this bill.

The Conservatives, whose stand was explained earlier by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard), criticize the government for wanting to increase the rates. They also criticized the government at the time of the postal strike. The Conservatives