

take it that the Hon. Member for Oshawa has stated he has paid for the postage. I still question why he utilized his frank.

The most disgraceful part of the exercise is seeing the New Democrats sanctimoniously and hypocritically chastising everybody in this House and challenging one of the most honourable Canadians, the Minister of Transport. It is unheard of.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I will keep my contribution to this discussion as brief as you would like it to be.

Mr. Speaker: I know the Hon. Member will do just that. The Chair I think has given all members a chance to express their views with language which has been brisk and vigorous, but it has been within the bounds. The Chair now really does need some procedural advice. The Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, knowing my reputation as an expert parliamentarian, I can understand why at this stage of the debate, after so much colourful and exciting language, you would call upon me to summarize this matter in a way that is logical and succinct and which will give the Chair the ability to make the decision rather quickly. I hope the Chair will be slightly tolerant, but I want to say that as a representative, as are all members ultimately, of Newfoundlanders who were the recipients of the propaganda being debated in the House, in case there is any misapprehension whatsoever in this Chamber that whether you wrap flimflam in a \$40,000 slick video presentation, whether you put it in a blue, white, red and yellow householder or wrap it in a letter from the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent), Newfoundlanders can recognize flimflam no matter how it is packaged. Whether it is \$40,000 flimflam or the NDP Leader's letters of flimflam, the people of St. John's East will not swallow it because it is all flimflam in the end.

I believe that it is incumbent upon Members—that is what we in this Party shall be doing—to go out in the streets of Newfoundland to communicate with and listen to the people. That is the appropriate forum. Whether or not there has been an improper use of taxpayers' funds in this spitting contest that we see between the New Democratic Party and the Conservative Party, the only logical question to ask is that of the Chief Electoral Officer. We shall see when the election is over and when all of the forms have been filed whether or not the Election Expenses Act has been followed. That is all that matters, Mr. Speaker. I submit from where I sit that that perhaps this is all you have to rule upon today.

Let me say in defence of Newfoundlanders that when you manufacture nonsense, be it in a \$40,000 package or a letter from the Leader of the New Democratic Party, Newfoundlanders will recognize it is nonsense every time. We are not impressed by this spitting contest between the two Parties. We want some answers. We want some leadership. We want to

know what the policies are to put the Province of Newfoundland back to work and to help it realize its full potential. We do not want a shouting match between schoolchildren in a forum that has been changed into a schoolyard. This is a shameful, shameful day.

[Translation]

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, on this same question of privilege, I would like to point out that, a few weeks ago, I also made a statement pursuant to Standing Order 21 to denounce the same use of franking privileges for partisan purposes by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. What I was denouncing at the time was the fact that, the Hon. Member had used his franking privileges to send a partisan message to Jonquière residents in which he took position on the tax reform and income taxes.

I have here another document from the Hon. Member of which I would like to read a few sentences:

"Mr. Broadbent, I want you to know what I think about fair taxes and employment." Then, there is only a small space where you cannot write either yes or no. It is simply written "yes". You have to put a check-mark if you agree with the statement. Then, the document says: "Yes, I believe that a tax reform guaranteeing that everyone pays his fair share is necessary. Low or middle income Canadian men and women should not have to bear an unfair tax burden." I wonder why such a question should be asked to Canadians, Mr. Speaker. It seems very obvious to me that everyone would agree that people must not bear an unfair tax burden.

Then, the Hon. Member said: "Yes, I believe that tax rebates should be used to create new jobs, not to provide tax holidays for groups or big businesses." The terms used are not even correct. It should be tax shelters and not tax holidays.

On another point, the Hon. Member says: "Yes, I agree with you when you support fair taxes." Is there anyone who could be against fair taxes, Mr. Speaker? Even though the words "A message from Ed Broadbent" were written on the letter, the Hon. Member is using for partisan purpose his privileges as a Member of Parliament, for which he pays less than ordinary citizens. The return postage was also prepaid. No stamp was required and it was addressed to: Ed Broadbent, Member of Parliament, House of Commons. The Hon. Member was using his privileges for partisan purposes, which is exactly what the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) is now describing, but in relation with another type of letter.

Mr. Speaker, we can go back to the statement I made a few weeks ago pursuant to Standing Order 21, when I said that, to top it all, this was only a mock survey. If the Hon. Member were at least using his privileges logically, even though such behaviour would still not be acceptable, it would be somewhat better. But this was just a sham. People could not even reply by saying yes or no. There was just a space for yes and questions on which everyone agrees since we are all for fair and equitable taxes.