

those who think that if you want to have information that the public is entitled to, at a certain point you have to have professional secrets respected under strict rules.

There is another point which I would like to ask as a rider to this. In some Canadian provinces, the law doesn't give immunity to the newsmen who cover municipal governments which are growing in importance. I think this is very serious and will become more and more serious. Here, for instance, a man can report from the press gallery anything which is said in the house and he can't be sued. Now, if a member gets up and says that so-and-so in Toronto or Vancouver is a liar and a thief, and so on, the man in the press gallery can repeat it, can print it, and he is not liable to be sued.

In some provinces in Canada, municipal councils are not protected in the same way. So it creates a very serious problem for coverage by the newspaper of the municipal councils. I think that we are going towards megalopolistic type of life and I think this is something that eventually every province should be encouraged to correct because I think it is more and more important to cover municipal councils. Otherwise you are very badly stuck with some copy that you know is true and the man comes and says: "I have no protection." You take the risk—tradition is in your favour and I don't think you would be sued. The advice we did receive from lawyers was that we had no protection except precedents, but this is not very comfortable, neither for the reporters nor the editor.

**Mr. Fortier:** It is for the lawyer though!

**Senator Prowse:** The second question is this. You made mention of *Le Monde* and am I correct in recalling that *Le Monde* is the newspaper where the actual working journalists have complete control of it?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Not complete yet. However, they are coming very close to it. If I am not mistaken as the private shareholders die—*Le Monde* is the successor of *Le Temps* and the shareholders are pretty old—the shares are given to the body of newsmen and professional people who are working for *Le Monde*. I think they have effective control right now.

**Senator Prowse:** Right now?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Right now. But before they have the absolute majority of shares, they have a few months to go.

**Senator Prowse:** I have been very intrigued with the suggestion that the way to ensure

professional independence of the professional press—I am thinking of the writers—is that kind of development. Have you seen enough of *Le Monde* to be able to give us a suggestion or give us an opinion as to whether you think the control of that paper by the professional writers has in fact produced a better paper, a better information medium?

**Mr. Pelletier:** There is no doubt in my mind about that, in the case of *Le Monde*.

**Senator Prowse:** Yes.

**Mr. Pelletier:** And it is the only one that I know of. The journalists were very professional and very responsible, but this doesn't mean that any member of the newsroom can do what he wishes. . .

**Senator Prowse:** No.

**Mr. Pelletier:** On the contrary. They will be appointing their own people, but once the man is in power, he is in power and the other owners who are the journalists, as a matter of fact, have to do what he tells them. It is very good. I am told that there is a second case of the same kind in Israel—in Tel Aviv there is a paper which is also run this way and which is also doing a good job. But with *Le Monde*, it is working remarkably well.

**Senator Prowse:** Thank you.

**The Chairman:** Are there other questions in this area in general that anyone has, or should we turn to a discussion of broadcasting? I think we will turn to you, Mr. Fortier?

[Translation]

**Mr. Fortier:** I would still have some questions to ask on the print medium, Mr. Minister. You experienced in Montreal, a few years ago, something which has become very interesting for the members of the Committee, here, and that was the launching of *Le Nouveau Journal* in competition with *La Presse*. In your opinion, what does it require in Canada today, besides money, to launch in a metropolitan centre, such as Montreal or Toronto or Vancouver, a new newspaper?

**Mr. Pelletier:** A daily?

**Mr. Fortier:** Yes, a daily?

**Mr. Pelletier:** Money, I can tell you, it takes 6 million dollars.