

Oral Questions

importance, to emphasize once more the lack of objectivity which the French network of the CBC is demonstrating in its news bulletins and which may infringe upon the privileges of hon. members. When I came to the House yesterday, together with my wife and brother-in-law, I was confronted by a battery of photographers bent on filming my arrival, as though this was a special event of some sort. Yet, not once before, out of the hundreds of occasions I covered the distance and entered through the same door to reach the House, was I considered newsworthy material.

During the Radio-Canada six o'clock news bulletin, reporter Paul Racine, a great man for imagining things, referred to a so-called disruption and possible rank breaking within the Social Credit Party of Canada. And to support his "story", he mentioned the contacts which Liberal members are reported to have had with the hon. member for Bellechasse in their efforts to have him join the Liberal party. This reporter also claimed that when he looked yesterday afternoon for the hon. member for Bellechasse, he finally found him in the lobby situated on the government's side.

Must one infer, from the presence of a man at a given time in the office of a bank president, that this man is there to negotiate the purchase of the bank? Does the fact that opposition party leaders meet each morning in the office of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), the Liberal Party leader, mean that the Liberal party is courting them? Are not hon. members, whatever their party affiliation, allowed to stroll about freely either on the right or on the left side of Your Honour's chair?

Mr. Speaker, it is true that during the House's sitting yesterday afternoon, I went to the lobby on the government's side to take part in the meeting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, a meeting which the committee chairman had called and at which two Progressive Conservative members, one NDP and three Liberal members were also present, besides myself. Are we to infer that, because a New Democrat or a Conservative member is found with Liberals, he is being courted and that he will join them eventually?

Mr. Corbin: Who knows!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Racine, given his imagination, could have added the names of those persons, without rhyme or reason as he did in my case. Mr. Racine of the Radio-Canada news service got in touch with me immediately after this meeting. He asked me if I had been approached by the Liberals and invited to join them. I said no and I added that I happened to be in the lobby to attend a meeting of the agriculture sub-committee. Therefore, he knew why I was there and it is in bad faith that he gave the impression in his news bulletin that I had been approached by the Liberals. I find this way of informing the population repugnant and yet, newsmen are the first to demand honesty from politicians.

Perhaps we might expect the same degree of honesty from them. Why this sudden interest in me? After the Radio-Canada news last night, I realized that it was not by chance that the cameras were there at the entrance of the House and

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

that Mr. Racine launched that rumour, because the reporter's statement was accompanied by a film which was intended to have viewers believe that there was some truth in that phony story. This is another proof that Radio-Canada does not always serve the Canadian people objectively. Yet it would have had plenty of opportunities to make headlines with the speeches I made in the House to denounce economic dictatorship, big finance, or in favour of pensions at age 60, in defence of small wage-earners, private enterprise, but it did not. Following this, the CRTC, which is making an inquiry into Radio-Canada, should add this incident to its agenda.

● (1510)

To conclude, I want to inform the House, through you, Mr. Speaker, that I was elected by the people of Bellechasse as a member of the Social Credit party and that I do not intend to renege my mandate. Indeed I have always believed that it was not the party—

Mr. Goyer: Until it becomes a federalist party.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): We cannot criticize newsmen for not respecting our privileges if you do not respect my privilege to express my point of view in the House itself. Anyway, I always thought that it is not the party that makes the man but the men who make the value of a party.

Mr. Béchar: Agreed, agreed!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I hope that Radio-Canada will have the courage to correct this failure to tell the truth, something which can deprive hon. members of their privileges. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin):

That considering the prejudice to my reputation as the hon. member for Bellechasse, this House request Radio-Canada to set the facts straight as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As always, the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Bellechasse involves a very important procedural matter and, if possible, I would rather delay my decision for a few hours perhaps. I shall make a decision tomorrow if possible, to deal with such an important matter.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I agree, Mr. Speaker.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the third report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instru-