

made a positive statement that one of the first acts of the present administration, after taking office, was to sabotage the League of Nations. Would he please tell the house in what way that is true?

Mr. MacINNIS: First of all, may I thank the Prime Minister for not interrupting me while I was speaking; I had plenty of interruption. I do not think the right hon. gentleman is at a loss to know to what I referred. Very shortly after he took office—possibly before he took office—the League of Nations decided to apply sanctions against Italy, and named her the aggressor in Abyssinia. Then the question of oil sanctions was raised in the council of the league. If there were anything necessary to stop Italy in Abyssinia, it would be the application of oil sanctions. This government repudiated the suggestion supposed to have been made by Canada's representative at Geneva. Could there be anything more calculated to give assurance to Italy that Canada was not with the league than this attitude with respect to the application of sanctions? It was a matter of giving comfort to the enemy, and I say in doing that Canada sabotaged the league.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As a matter of accuracy may I state that so far as the application of sanctions is concerned, the present government applied sanctions against Italy. So far as oil sanctions are concerned the present administration made it perfectly clear that the suggestion was not a Canadian suggestion, that it was a suggestion of a committee of the league, and that it was altogether wrong to say that the application of oil sanctions was Canada's project. There was nothing more than that, so far as the present administration is concerned.

Mr. BENNETT: It was not until December, though, that it was done.

Mr. MacINNIS: Was there any danger to Canada, even if it were Canada's suggestion?

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): If war had been declared or had spread as a result of the application of oil sanctions, would the hon. member have been in favour of Canada participating in that war?

Mr. MacINNIS: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MERCIER: Answer.

Mr. MacINNIS: Yes, give me time.

Mr. MERCIER: Don't make a detour.

Mr. MacINNIS: This government applied sanctions. If war had resulted from the application of sanctions, what position would this government be in? The purpose of

sanctions was to stop aggression in Abyssinia. The more absolute the sanctions applied, the greater the possibility of stopping aggression. Any action taken under the league might lead to war.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): But suppose the hon. member is wrong, and there had been a war, would he have been in favour of participating in that war?

Mr. MacINNIS: Most certainly, in any action which Canada as a member of the league would take to protect another member of the league.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): You must have some armament for that, though.

Mr. MacINNIS: Yes, but we are not using it for that purpose.

Mr. PIERRE GAUTHIER (Portneuf) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, every time a public man has to express an opinion or to advance a policy on a question of vital importance to his country, he must do it as fairly as possible. The satisfaction he may derive from seeing his name in all the papers, his concern about reelection, the more or less attractive reward that may be held out to him according to his attitude toward the party which he supports, in fact every personal consideration must give way to his duty as a representative of the people, and as a patriot.

Mr. BOULANGER: Mr. Speaker, I deem it my duty to raise a point of order. The hon. member has just made a statement that I cannot let silently go by. From the outset, the hon. member sought to leave the impression that those who do not share his views are actuated by personal interest and a desire to reap some benefit from the party to which they belong. I cannot let such a statement pass without protest, and I ask, according to rule 41 of the Standing Orders, that the hon. member be called to order, and that he be reminded that he has no right to impute motives to others.

The hon. member is a newcomer in the House of Commons. He may have many things to learn yet; in the first place, politeness and decency. I do not impute motives to anyone, and I do not want to have any imputed to me. I let everybody free to express their views and I claim the same privilege. I am endeavouring to be polite, courteous and considerate, and I am expecting others to treat me likewise.

Therefore, I shall ask you, Mr. Speaker, under rule 41, and according to the Standing Orders of the house which preclude the imputation of motives to a fellow member,