

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Friday, July 2, 1943

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVILEGE

MR. LACOMBE—TRANSLATION OF REMARKS IN DEBATE ON JUNE 25

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two Mountains): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. Last Wednesday I withdrew unconditionally a statement which I had made in French in this house on June 25. Now, using my privilege as a member of parliament, I should like to ask the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) to be just and fair to me. Speaking in this house on June 28 the Prime Minister quoted from the English debates of June 25 last. This citation was as follows:

We have here in the cabinet three new millionaires who have made their money since the war's outbreak. We shall denounce them at the proper time and place. Fortunes are being built up.

That citation is reported at page 4072 of the English Debates of June 28, 1943. This is an absolutely false translation of a part of my speech delivered in French on June 25. Consequently I should like to ask the right hon. the Prime Minister to withdraw this citation or to give instructions to the translator to correct this translation.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am sure the house would wish me to be absolutely fair with the hon. gentleman, and no one is more anxious to be so than myself. I would remind him that the citation which I used on Wednesday was the citation as it appears in *Hansard* in French and I used only that citation and had reference to no other in the remarks I made. It was pointed out at the time that the French translation, in the mind of the hon. member who has just spoken, and I think I may say in the minds also of many other hon. members, was not a correct translation. But that was in no sense my fault or the fault of the government; it is a matter which concerns the translation staff of the house. I would say for that reason

I think my hon. friend, in desiring to have any correction made, so far as *Hansard* is concerned, should address the Speaker of the house rather than myself. He will find His Honour the Speaker quite ready, I am sure, to see that an accurate translation is given. If he adopts that procedure he will find, I am sure, on the part of all there will be every disposition to see that a proper translation is substituted for the one that appears in *Hansard*.

Mr. LACOMBE: I ask Your Honour to give instructions to the translators to correct this translation.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has made the request of the Chair that there should be a proper translation of the words that were used in the motion which the right hon. the Prime Minister brought before the house. I would say to the hon. gentleman that I checked the translation, and I am satisfied that the translation in English of the hon. gentleman's speech was not a correct translation of the French text. With what the hon. gentleman has said, supplemented by the Prime Minister, and also what I now say, I think there has been sufficient reference to justify the hon. gentleman on the question of privilege, and to make clear that the English text was not a proper translation of the French text.

MR. LACOMBE—REFERENCE TO EDITORIAL IN MONTREAL GAZETTE OF JULY 1

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two Mountains): On a question of privilege, the *Montreal Gazette*, in the edition of July 1, 1943, has an editorial under the title, "Lacombe Eats His Words". The first sentence of the editorial reads:

Liguori Lacombe has eaten his words to the last shameful morsel. . . .

The last sentence of the editorial reads:

The important thing was that an irresponsible slander should be branded as such.

Using my privilege as a member of the House of Commons I ask that this statement be withdrawn, and I give the *Montreal Gazette*