

have no objection to those people being well paid but we, federal members of parliament, the government, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), pilot 22 million people, and because we talk of a salary increase, it is scandalous! It is scandalous that we should give ourselves increases!

Mr. Speaker, I wonder here where is that famous mental, professional or intellectual honesty in those people? And they are the ones who never stop crying in the name of freedom of the press. We allow them to say anything against us but the moment we answer back we are attacking the freedom of the press. They have the right to come down on us as much as they can. If we told them anything or tried to stop them from talking, then they would be crying murder.

That is why I said to the Prime Minister yesterday: "Why don't you send them on a trip to Europe!" Some do go. Recently, I saw on television my friend Larin who was in Viet Nam or some southern or eastern country. Paid by whom? By CBC. Financed by whom? By the federal government. Larin did not seem to find that ridiculous. It was not scandalous. He was basking in the sun, and that was normal. Another day, Jean-Marc was in Paris. Mr. Speaker, that does not mean that I have anything against Jean-Marc. No. He is a sympathetic fellow, but he should get off our backs.

I have just talked about airline pilots and the freedom of the press. During the Easter break, I had the opportunity to make a trip around the Mediterranean, not at the expense of the CBC or the government, but at my own expense. I visited eight countries around the Mediterranean including Israel, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon and Turkey. I looked at the behaviour of people, politicians and the press. And, as the right hon. Prime Minister said yesterday, and I agree with him completely on this point, I have not yet seen anywhere in the whole world a country where the people of the press, the reporters, have as much freedom as here, in Canada.

I would advise them to visit Cuba, for instance; it is not far and their expenses would be paid by the CBC. They would see what would happen if they wrote against that regime, like they write against our system. How long would this be tolerated? Let them go and do the same thing in France! Let them go and speak against the French president or write against him and they will see what happens! Let them go in Russia to try and fight against the regime, or in Czechoslovakia! No. Here in Canada, we smile when they attack us, but there is a difference between that and tolerating the ridicule which they try to put on the federal members of parliament who have to assume responsibilities much greater than those of reporters. I am only asking them to be honest. I do not beg them to give us their blessing. No. They should bring us to order if we deserve it. But if we work honestly, sincerely, they should recognize it and stop laughing at the ideal democratic institution. The hon. member for Lotbinière was solid on December 19, but the press lacked the courage to mention this.

A while ago, I spoke about airline pilots. I would now like to talk about Crown corporations, the CN for instance. The chairman of this corporation earns about twice as much as the Prime Minister of Canada. The

Members Salaries

chairman and vice-chairman of Air Canada both earn more money than the Prime Minister. Several deputy ministers are better paid than their minister. In all Crown corporations, the situation is the same.

Mr. Speaker, we do not object to the deputy ministers and secretaries being paid decently. I endorse the claims of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) when he contends that the Public Service employees should be well treated. Would the hon. member object to the members' salaries being increased? Mr. Speaker, let us be logical and stop acting like hypocrites!

I have been told that the New Democratic Party would oppose the legislation raising members' salaries. If the New Democrats are logical here, they were not in British Columbia, in Saskatchewan and in Manitoba. The first thing the socialist government of British Columbia did was to increase the members' salaries, and with Mr. Barrett, I think the salaries were raised a hundred per cent. In Saskatchewan, when my hon. friend from Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) was head of a New Democratic government, salaries were increased. Maybe not while my hon. friend was premier, but after he had left, they were pretty quick in passing their salary increase. Our friend, Mr. Schreyer, sat next to me in this House when he was a New Democratic federal member. The first thing he did after being elected premier in Manitoba was to increase the provincial members' salaries.

An hon. Member: For each session!

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, for each session, on top of that. Why should we then in Ottawa, under pretence of pleasing part of the electorate, why should we oppose the increase in members' salaries for purely political reasons? Mr. Speaker, I believe this would be fraught with inconsistency and, frankly, hypocrisy!

Mr. Speaker, Crown corporations and provincial legislatures managed to get reasonable salaries. I suggest responsible members doing an honest job should have adequate salary. We owe it to them, and to this country's future. This morning I heard over the radio that young people show a total lack of interest in politics, in the wake of the hearings of the Cliche enquiry in Quebec and the Hamilton and Quebec harbours scandals.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that if the young were interested in playing a role as members of parliament, in representing the people—and this will not happen if the members' role is defiled, diminished or decried as is now done in the press—if the function was enhanced to its fullest value and earnestness, there would now be a greater number of young people interested in public affairs, and the basic political matters in Canada—not partisan politics but the real political problems in the deepest sense of the term, this could be conducive to pursuit by the young a public career of some form or other. But it would require that the press discharge their responsibilities, that they promote interest in politics among the young people, that they induce a greater number of serious people to take an active part in all levels of Canadian political life.

Mr. Speaker, I have here other comparisons. In the field of sports for example, we have today players receiving \$200,000 a year for a six or seven months' season. One baseball player, a Mr. Hunter, recently signed a \$3,700,000