

Proposed Legislation

Brassard (Lapointe)	Leduc
Caron	McIlraith
Carter	McMillan
Chevrier	McWilliam
Fisher	Martin (Essex East)
Forgie	Martin (Timmins)
Godin	Mitchell
Gour	Peters
Habel	Regier
Hardie	Roberge
Herridge	Robichaud
Houck	Tucker
Howard	Winch—30.

PRIVILEGE

MR. HERRIDGE—REFERENCE TO ARTICLE IN OTTAWA "CITIZEN"

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a brief announcement by way of a question of privilege occasioned by a report in the *Ottawa Citizen* of Saturday last. While I intend taking up this matter at a press conference later—

An hon. Member: Louder.

Mr. Herridge: While I intend to deal with this matter later at a press conference, which I understand is the new technique, I wish to bring it to the attention of the house in order to have a permanent record of the truth.

The news item is headed with the following words: "Name Calling Breaks Calm as Government Defends Jobs Plan; Gloating Grits Rapped." I might explain that the article is written by Mr. Bruce Phillips of the Southam news service. I might also explain that Mr. Phillips is a good-looking member of a group with respect to which, with two or three feminine exceptions, nature has been somewhat parsimonious in this regard. The part of the article to which I take exception reads as follows:

Surprising support for the government came from C.C.F. M.P. Bert Herridge, who said there have been "understandable attempts to make political capital out of situations by people who should be better informed.

"I think it is fair to say that this government by its specific actions on housing has provided year-long employment in the past year for approximately 175,000 persons. There is no secret source for this information; it is fully available to the members of the opposition and I have been surprised that they have been asking such questions."

That is what I am supposed to have said, and hon. members can well understand that it raised my ancient hackles. At no time have I uttered these words in the House of Commons or outside. As a matter of fact, in order to indicate my point of view, when speaking on the question of housing I said in part as found at pages 159 and 160 of *Hansard* of May 16:

We support this resolution, as some of my colleagues have mentioned, although we think it is completely inadequate to meet all the housing necessities of the Canadian people. When the

minister began to speak I really thought he had become a convert to public financing of housing in Canada. However, when he was concluding his speech I thought he sounded like a bride who had flirted with an idea and then broken off the engagement.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, these remarks attributed to me were made by the hon. member for York-Scarborough (Mr. McGee), at page 924 of *Hansard* for June 6, 1958. I trust, as a result of my bringing this to the attention of the house, my party consistency and rectitude during this debate will be established, and I know the person responsible for causing me a week end of mental disquietude and embarrassment will do his best to remove this blot on my socialist escutcheon.

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND ABSENTEE VOTING PROVISIONS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-23, to amend the Canada Elections Act (absentee voting).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Howard: This bill, Mr. Speaker, is designed to establish a system that we classify as absentee voting in federal elections, under which an elector who, on election day, finds himself absent from the polling division within which he is registered, may cast his ballot in another polling division, provided it is in the same province or any adjoining province. There are several amendments to the act in this same bill, but they are all connected with the basic principle of trying to establish the absentee ballot.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

INDIAN ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING NAMES ON INDIAN REGISTER

Hon. Ellen L. Fairclough (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-24, to amend the Indian Act.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, this is a minor amendment which has been requested for some time. As soon as the bill is available it will be apparent that it is very short.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister is certainly no minor minister. I think she ought to explain what the minor point in the bill is.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, I must confess openly before the house that I do not have a copy of the bill with me.