

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the Prime Minister that this is a case in which justice might well be tempered with mercy, for three reasons. First, this man gets up in the house in the evening when he is perhaps feeling sick, or perhaps too good, and he makes what now appears to be a foolish and utterly untrue statement. Then, to make matters a great deal worse, the statement is not translated properly, something that is not his fault. I do not know much about French, but I know how to translate three or four simple words. The French as it appears before us here, and as it appeared in some of the newspapers, is to the effect that we have in the government three new millionaires since the declaration of war. Then the translation puts in words that were not there by saying, "three new millionaires who have made their money" since the war's outbreak. Those words "who have made their money" are not in the original French, and the translation makes the offence, if it is an offence, a great deal worse. The hon. member has explained that, and he has also suggested that "government" does not mean "cabinet". I do not know about that, but I do know that these English words that appear here were not in the original French. I think we could well overlook utterances made in the evening under certain conditions. I am not in that condition very often myself, so that perhaps I cannot speak with authority.

The third reason is that we are likely to make ourselves supremely ridiculous, and that is a thing not to be desired in parliament. Those of us who have been very long in politics know that this has happened before. I was not in the house at the time, but it happened in the British Columbia house. A reporter made some foolish break—I think he got up a fake bill or something of the kind. It was taken by most of the house as a good joke, but some of the members of the government were affronted. They thought their dignity had been affected and they demanded that he be called to the bar of the house. He was called to the bar of the house and was finally sentenced to be taken into custody by the sergeant-at-arms. They followed the English custom, and he was ordered to be placed in the tower. But they had no tower in British Columbia at the time, so that he lived at the best hotel in the town at the people's expense for a couple of days. Finally a delegate from the government went to him and asked if he would mind calling it all off. The result was that they appeared supremely ridiculous.

[Mr. C. E. Johnston.]

The hon. member feels that he has apologized. He says that he did not intend to cast any reflection upon any member of the government, and I think it would be well if we were to accept his statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The words of the motion seem to have been overlooked. They read:

That Liguori Lacombe, Esquire, member representing the electoral district of Laval-Two Mountains in the house, having declared from his seat—

Only the French text is used in the motion, not the English text.

Mr. MAURICE LALONDE (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I was present in the house when the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains delivered his speech and I can corroborate what the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Leduc) has said, to the effect that the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains used these French words:

Nous avons dans le Gouvernement trois nouveaux millionnaires depuis la déclaration de la guerre. Nous les dénoncerons en temps et lieu. Les fortunes s'édifient.

If my memory serves me aright, I think the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains was reading his speech, so that it is of no use for us—

Mr. LACOMBE: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member has stated that I was reading a text. That is absolutely false as I had given my text to the newspapers. The hon. member for Labelle was interrupting me without my permission.

Mr. LALONDE: I am bound to accept the declaration of the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains, but we must all admit that the words used by the hon. member were exactly the same as they appear in this resolution. We have to decide whether or not the house will accept the resolution now before the Chair. It is of no use for us to quarrel about whether or not the translation from French into English has been well done, because the resolution contains the French version, and we are called upon to approve or reject it. So that the hon. member for Laval-Two Mountains should not think I am getting after him too severely; but if he does not withdraw completely and without reservation the statement he made in the French language I am ready to vote for this resolution. If the house is kind enough to give the hon. member another chance to withdraw completely the statement he made, without any conditions, then I shall be ready to take another view.

Mr. HOMUTH: No, no.