

National Defence Act Amendment

charges as lacking the guts to make the proper charge. Everyone in the house realizes that the proper charge was made, and if there was any lack of guts we know where it was.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I cannot identify the hon. member sitting across the way, but if I could I would put him in his place.

Mr. Prud'homme: I am not sitting in my place.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): You are sitting in a seat and yak-yak-yaking. You do not participate in the debate as you should.

Mr. Prud'homme: I shall soon.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Then I look forward to listening to you and I will surrender the floor the minute you have the guts to get up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the hon. member to continue his speech.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I have trouble making up my mind whether to follow your instruction or listen to the yacking over on the other side of the house. I would think it was the duty of the Chair to put him in his place, should he seek to continue as he is doing.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for his guidance, which I will try to take into account. However, the hon. member has spoken for a minute or two, and if he will read *Hansard* he will find that nothing he has said up to now has much to do with the debate upon which the house is engaged, and I would invite him to limit his comments to the bill now before us.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): All I can say to that is that I accept Your Honour's ruling.

With respect to the approach taken by the minister in this matter, I would refer to his attitude last fall and the charges which were then made in this house, as well as to the fact that there is an affidavit to the effect that evidence before the committee was altered. I have yet to see any sign of an affidavit from the minister that this was not the case. He will shake his head, but I should like to see it put down in the form of a note as was done when it was claimed an alteration had been made.

Turning again to the events of last fall, the minister had this to say as reported at page 9647 of *Hansard* for November 7:

A number of points have been raised during the debate and I should like to take this opportunity

23033—791

to deal with some of them. The first major point that seems to keep recurring in many of the speeches which have been made by hon. gentlemen opposite is in respect of lack of information regarding the unification and progress of integration of the armed forces.

He went on to refer to an example brought up by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Harkness) and then he continued:

In reply to the hon. member for Calgary North and other members of the opposition who have raised this point, I must reiterate that never before in Canadian history have this house, its committees and the public been given so much information on our force structure, our present and future policies and the capabilities of our forces.

• (9:40 p.m.)

That was quite a mouthful for the minister to utter when one considers that it is precisely this lack of information about which the public is continually complaining. If the minister does not care to believe me, I suggest he go to the files of the Prime Minister and read some of the letters which have been received in that office, copies of which have been sent to other hon. members. He will find there letters from the Air Force Officers Association, the Tri-Service Identity Organization, the Naval Officers Association—all groups which are interested and active in the affairs of the Canadian Armed Forces.

It is obvious that the minister's approach to this question is altogether wrong. We are developing in Canada something which belongs under a dictatorship. What is democratic about the idea of having among us a propaganda team or a propaganda force as was indicated this morning in the house by the minister's acceptance of that charge? He can look at *Hansard* tomorrow and read his answer about the propaganda team. They are still operating up there. I will say to them: Don't let me catch you passing a note or you will not be there too long. The minister indicated this afternoon in answer to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) that he does, indeed, have a propaganda team at work, and that he accepts the statement made to that effect.

What is propaganda? It is the spreading of lies for the minister's own advantage or, I was about to say, for the advantage of the government. But that would hardly be fair. The government is not in attendance. I have yet to hear any member of the government get up and defend the minister's position with regard to unification. Look around. Who is here in support of the minister? Nobody. The minister is trying to put this legislation