

of any article, and when the Acting Solicitor General speaks of that he is either trying to deceive the committee in regard to the intention of the mover of the amendment, or he has not studied the amendment as he should have studied it. There is nothing, I say, in the amendment which relates to exposing who is the writer of any article, one way or the other. The amendment is solely aimed at disclosing who is paying for the circulation of certain kinds of literature during election periods; that is all the amendment aims at. I maintain that it is very much in the public interest that the people should know, when articles appear in the press that have been paid for in the nature of advertisements to the extent, possibly, of hundreds of thousands of dollars, whether those articles are the bona fide expression of the views of the paper publishing them, or whether they are articles paid for by some iron and steel merger, some textile interest, some manufacturing, packing, canning, financial, commercial, or other interest that is willing to contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, to the winning of the campaign. What is the whole purpose of the law as it stands in regard to contributions for political purposes if it is not to make impossible large contributions by special interests to campaign funds where the source from which they come is not stated? The law as it stands should be broad enough, or ought to be considered in such a way, as to cover contributions of this kind. Section 10 says:

No unincorporated company or association and no incorporated company or association other than one incorporated for political purposes alone shall, directly or indirectly, contribute, loan, advance, pay, or promise or offer to pay any money or its equivalent to, or for, or in aid of, any candidate at an election, or to, or for, or in aid of, any political party, committee, or association, or to or for, or in aid of, any company incorporated for political purposes, or to, or for, or in furtherance of, any political purpose whatever, or for the indemnification or reimbursement of any person for moneys so used.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if that section means anything it surely means that where a great concern like one of those mergers I have spoken of offers to pay a million dollars for campaign purposes and desires to make the contribution in the form of paying different papers to publish certain articles or for pamphlets to be distributed—that such a contribution is in aid of a candidate or in aid of a political party. I am

astounded at the minister taking exception for one minute to the proposal which has been made, because under the law as it stands any contribution from these big interests for the purpose of winning elections, a contribution which takes the form of paying for the circulation of literature, is a contribution for political purposes and should bear on the face of it the name of the party who makes the contribution. The member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) does not suggest, in the amendment which he has moved, that these contributions be not made. All he has suggested is that the public shall know, when they read an advertisement or an article that is being paid for by some special interest for political purposes, that that interest is paying for it; that the view expressed is not the opinion of the paper itself but is something that is paid for and inserted in that way. My hon. friend does not take exception to a newspaper printing anything that it pleases, through its own editors or any persons whom it cares to employ. What appears in a newspaper from its own staff, or is contributed, no matter from where it may be collected, can appear just in the form in which it is at this time. The amendment does not touch a matter of that kind at all. What it aims at is the disclosure of the source of payment where articles are paid for by special interests. Where, for example, some interest goes into a newspaper office and asks that a certain article be published, and the newspaper says, "We cannot publish this article; it is not in accord with our 12 m. views," or "We have other

views to express," and the interest turns round and says: "Will you publish it if we pay for it?" "What is your price?" and the newspaper names its price and takes the article—I say that articles taken in that way should bear on the face of them something to the effect that: this article contributed by so-and-so is being paid for by so-and-so. It must be remembered that this amendment has reference only to literature at election time. The Act defines what is "during an election". I say it is in the public interest that these large election contributions by wealthy financial, commercial or industrial interests should be disclosed when they are intended to have a direct influence upon public opinion during the period of an election. Why, you poison the springs of public opinion at their source unless you protect the public against that kind of purchasing of the press, because that is what it is. It