

*Official Report*

Minister playing her imaginary violin—in the hope that she would call back, but she has not yet done so.

The words of the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton yesterday will be found on page 27140 of *Hansard* in the right-hand column, as follows:

—it was clear that what was said in the House was changed in the official record. Whether it was changed by the Leader of the Opposition, or his staff, or by *Hansard* itself, is for Madam Speaker to determine. But one way or the other someone tampered with the words.

As the Chair and Hon. Members are well aware, these alterations in *Hansard* are permitted so long as they in no way change the sense of what was said and are for the purpose merely of correcting grammatical errors or correcting errors that were made in the transcription of the words uttered in the House.

As I undertook to do in the House yesterday, I have examined the “blues” very carefully. The original “blues” set out the exchange in this fashion:

UNE VOIX: Accouche!

“Une voix” is the equivalent of “An Hon. Member”. The identification of “Une voix” of course was the Minister of Health. Beside her name appears the single word “Accouche”.

Then the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition appears this way in the original of the French text of the “blues”:

M. MULRONEY: Madame le Président, je dirai à l'honorable ministre de la Santé nationale et du bien-être social qu'en parlant d'accouchement, ça s'en vient, Monique ça s'en vient!

That was the original of the French text of the “blues”.

Both of those interventions were altered. The Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton is quite correct if he asserts they were altered. He can make his own judgment as to whether that amounts to tampering in a moment. The word appearing after “une voix” “Accouche”, was altered to “Accouchez”. Then in the intervention of the Leader of the Opposition, the original words were “Ça s'en vient. Ça s'en vient Monique parlant d'accouchement, Monique, ça s'en vient!” The alterations there were that the first words “ça s'en vient” were deleted, the second group of words “ça s'en vient” were deleted, the word “Monique” was deleted, and later on in the sentence again the word “Monique” was deleted; and this was substituted therefor—I have already read what was substituted therefor.

That, to my mind, Mr. Speaker, is an extensive alteration to *Hansard* and one which again, in my view, is not one of those which is customarily permitted with the objective of maintaining the accuracy of the original *Hansard*.

While those alterations were made, I have ascertained and can assure the House that the Leader of the Opposition did not make those alterations, nor did anyone on the staff of the Leader of the Opposition make those alterations. The alterations themselves, in their entirety, were made by the editors of French *Hansard*.

In order to put the editors' actions in a proper light, I hasten to assure the House that, with my extensive knowledge of the

French language, the substance of what was said was not altered; but the repetitious nature of the exchange on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition—

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: I hear the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Evans) saying that is not true. If he is accusing me of lying, he should stand up and say so or intervene in this debate.

The final version of *Hansard* in the French text at page 27064 renders the printed text as follows:

UNE VOIX: Accouchez!

That is an alteration. And:

M. MULRONEY: Madame le Président, je dirai à l'honorable ministre de la Santé nationale et du Bien-être social qu'en parlant d'accouchement, ça s'en vient!

We can see that it is quite different from what was actually said on the floor of the House.

To compound the difficulties, the French version of *Hansard*, as the Chair is aware, is not translated into English until very, very much later in the day. The text of the English translation is never available for checking until the next day, when we receive the printed version. The English translation in its original—I am citing from the “blues”—appears in this fashion:

AN HON. MEMBER: Get to the point!

MR. MULRONEY: I am getting there, Monique! I am getting there, do not worry, Monique.

That is the original translation which, again, has been altered, as far as Mr. Mulroney's intervention was concerned, in this fashion. The entire original “blues” sentence has been deleted and the following substituted therefore in English:

Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare that I will get there in due time.

The final printed version of *Hansard* renders the exchange in English at page 27064 as follows:

● (1210)

AN HON. MEMBER: —

Which, of course, is the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin).

Get to the point!

MR. MULRONEY: Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare that I will get there in due time.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, again relying on that very familiar knowledge which I have of the French language, in order to bolster what I have said about the terminology which was used, I quote from *Larousse Dictionnaire in anglais et français*. The French word “accoucher” is a medical term:

To be confined, to lie in, to be delivered, to accouche; to give birth to.

Then it goes on, and this is the sense in which the exchange took place, of which I am sure the Minister is aware:

To bring forth; to spit it out, to cough it up; out with it!