

Members' Acceptance of Fees from C.B.C.

Mr. Thompson: If hon. members would wait to hear what I have to say, they would understand.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): We have heard enough.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, the noise some members make is matched only by their ignorance on some issues. The majority of the members of this house, at one time or another, have accepted money from public funds in reimbursement of travelling expenses. Most of the members have been on some form of delegation or other. Certainly a member is entitled to a fair repayment of out of pocket expenses incurred in legitimate travel while carrying out the normal duties of his office.

If a member of this house is to be condemned because he has received travelling expenses from the C.B.C., apart from any fees or any other type of remuneration, then I suggest this would be very unfair to him. I believe that if a check were made it would be found that most of the 17 members concerned, if not all of them, received only that kind of reimbursement. So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) that in the investigation of this matter he be sure to include the question whether or not it is improper to receive legitimate travel expenses from the C.B.C., in the normal course of duty expected of one holding such an office, for such things as—

An hon. Member: External affairs.

Mr. Thompson:—for external affairs or for any other type of duty which he may have been performing. The respect of this house as far as the public is concerned has suffered enough at this time without our heaping upon ourselves more disrespect for something of which we are not really guilty. I am not one of those who has accepted even travelling expenses from the C.B.C.—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nielsen: How did you get to the Congo?

Mr. Thompson: The point that has been brought up by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam is a very important one and is certainly part of this whole issue. If only for the protection of new members and of people not familiar with some of these matters, this matter must be investigated.

[Mr. MacEwan.]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: It would perhaps be appropriate that, *ex post facto*, I should refer to the point of order raised by the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire). My understanding is that standing order 30 applies more particularly to a specific case where the conduct of a member has been questioned and where the matter is under consideration following a specific motion concerning a member. In this case, circumstances are entirely different, and I believe that the standing order is not applicable thereto.

[English]

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

*C.B.C.—FEES RECEIVED BY MINISTERS FOR BROADCASTING

Question No. 1,500—**Mr. Brand:**

1. Has any member of the present cabinet, during the past three years, received an honorarium or fee from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for appearances on television or radio?
2. If so (a) who (b) in what amounts?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as follows:

1. Yes, a member of the present cabinet who was a private member at the time he appeared on C.B.C. programs was one of several members of parliament who received fees from the C.B.C. while members of a previous parliament.

2. The answer to part A is the present Minister of Mines, Energy and Resources.

Part B: It is the policy of the C.B.C. not to disclose the amounts paid to any individual.

DECORATION OF HON. JEAN LESAGE BY GREECE

Question No. 1,561—**Mr. Allard:**

Has the government, through its former Ambassador to Greece, made representations to the government of Greece with respect to a decoration or a doctorate to be conferred on the Hon. Jean Lesage?

[Translation]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No representations in the matter have been made either to or by the government of Canada by or to the government of Greece.