

Hansard—Altering of Report

what hon. members would have wished me to do, then I am sorry; I confess; I apologize, and I feel that confession is good for the soul.

Mr. Coldwell: I am told by my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that when I was speaking the Minister of Agriculture rose and offered to apologize to the house. I am sorry. I did not realize that or I would have sat down and allowed him to make that apology.

Mr. Gardiner: That was not my intention. I did rise when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking and said I was quite prepared to apologize but no one would let me do so.

Mr. Fulton: Has the minister changed his mind?

Mr. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): I rise on a question of privilege, arising out of the same incident but on another subject than the one which has been raised. My question of privilege is this. A most serious accusation was made by the minister against the charitable institutions of Quebec—

An hon. Member: Politics.

Mr. Balcer: It is not a question of politics.

Mr. Lesage: It is a question of politics, not of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: May I tell the hon. member that what he is raising at the moment was part of the consideration that I did give in making my own decision. I am glad he has raised the point, but at this moment I do not think we should go beyond the point dealing with the alteration that was made in *Hansard*. The question the hon. member has in mind is one which I feel could be raised as soon as the committee is in supply on the estimates of the Department of Agriculture. You see, at the moment we do not know what has taken place in the committee of supply. It has not reported. All we know is that *Hansard* has been altered. This is the point that must be discussed at the moment.

If the hon. member wishes to discuss further the matter of altering *Hansard*, I will listen to him.

Mr. Balcer: It is just that the Minister of Agriculture, when he rose this afternoon on this question, did not give a definition of margarine. It makes a tremendous difference whether he meant the margarine used in the institutions in Quebec was margarine made from vegetable oils or if he meant—

Mr. Lesage: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: May I rise to clarify a point? The hon. member for Three Rivers is now complaining that in his statement the minister did not deal with the situation as fully

as he should have. The hon. member for Three Rivers will recall that at one point in the minister's statement, a point of order was raised by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) to the effect that no matter foreign to the alteration of *Hansard* be touched on by the minister. He could not deal with the matter any further than was necessary in a discussion of the alteration, the question before the house at the moment. Is the house ready to hear the minister deal with the other point, that there might have been some inference that institutions in the province of Quebec were breaking the law?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I really think that the minister ought to clarify the situation because it is very serious for him to accuse institutions of doing something illegal, and just give some statistics. I think he could clarify that. When he mentions margarine, does he refer to margarine made from vegetable oils or made from animal oils, because one is legal and the other is illegal. I think he should clarify that.

Mr. Gardiner: As the Speaker has already pointed out, that is what I was prevented from doing when I had the floor. I was going to read that into the record.

On December 17, 1953 an act, known as an act to protect the dairy industry in the province of Quebec, 2 Elizabeth II, was passed. In addition to defining dairy products, a substitute for a dairy product is also defined. Subsection G, section 1, reads as follows:

"substitute": any food product prepared for use or used for any of the purposes which a dairy product may serve, and in the manufacture of which vegetable oils or fats are employed; such term means particularly, but not restrictively, margarine, oleomargarine and any similar product, whatever may be the name by which it is called.

Of course, the important fact there is the reference to vegetable oils. This means that any product in which vegetable oils or fats are employed is a substitute for a dairy product and is prohibited by section 2 of this act. You will note that margarine and oleomargarine are specifically mentioned and prohibited.

However, section 3 of the same act permits the lieutenant governor in council to:

(a) withdraw from the application of this act any special alimentary product, in particular any product in the making of which enter largely animal fats and which, in the opinion of the lieutenant governor in council, is rather a substitute of the fat or of another foodstuff than a substitute of a dairy product in the sense of this act;

Unfortunately, in the short time at my disposal this morning I was not able to get a copy of all the amendments or regulations that have been passed under that act.