

*Inquiries of the Ministry**(Translation):*

## PRIVILEGE

MR. LANGLOIS—NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RESPECTING  
NATO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which, this time, concerns the whole house.

It is not often that all members of the house are involved in a question of privilege but this time it is not only the members of this house who are insulted but the whole Canadian people.

Not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, a delegation—and I wish to inform the house about this situation—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the hon. member knows that he must indicate at once his motive for rising on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Langlois:** On two occasions, our parliamentary delegation to NATO was falsely accused. We allowed the matter to pass unnoticed the first time, that is yesterday. But again today, we are being described as incompetent “wolves”, people who take off their shoes during meetings and who pick their nose. This is an insult to the Canadian people.

I therefore ask the house to take those facts in serious consideration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Langlois:** The newspaperman who wrote yesterday's article is Mr. Charpentier and today it is a Mr. Guy Cormier from *La Presse* who takes the liberty of making such remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Can the hon. member specify the paper's name and the date?

**Mr. Langlois:** In the first instance, it is an item in *La Presse* of November 27, and in the second, an article published in *La Presse* of November 28.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, how a newspaperman can take it upon himself to tell parliamentary delegates how they should behave when he himself was so intoxicated that he was asleep on the seat of the plane's toilet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must remind the hon. member and all hon. members in this house that they cannot identify anyone in the galleries. If that rule of conduct is not followed, the necessary steps will have to be taken.

I wish to remind the hon. member that matters of libel must pertain to the personal behaviour of hon. members or their conduct as members of this house. If, however, there

are newspapermen who, in the columns of their newspaper, comment on the general quality of our delegations, it cannot be said that their remarks concern each member. Nevertheless, it may sometimes be useful to go to the source.

In the circumstances, I do not believe there is cause to raise a question of privilege involving all members of the house.

Finally, if a newspaperman has related certain unsubstantiated facts in an article, then the hon. member may tell the house that such and such a fact, as reported, is false, and nothing more.

**Mr. Langlois:** Mr. Speaker, this concerns the whole Canadian delegation, and not just one person.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I cannot accept that opinion. The hon. member has made his representations, but I do not believe there is a question of privilege.

The newspaperman has made some comments on a certain delegation, and I am not going to repeat what I said earlier. If some of our colleagues have been attacked personally, but not as members of this house, I fail to see a question of privilege.

If, however, the facts have been misrepresented, that is something else, and one may state that the facts, as reported, are false. But it must be a matter of facts and not of opinions.

**Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege or on a point of order. It does not matter which one.

It is the same question of privilege. The newspaperman in question attacks not only a member of parliament but the whole Canadian delegation. Consequently, I feel that Liberal and Conservative members should be informed of what those reporters are saying since they may wish to refute their allegations. I submit that Mr. Charpentier should be called before a parliamentary committee to be rebuked for having written such a tendentious article.

**Mr. Speaker:** Now that I have heard the opinions of the members who raised the question of privilege, and bearing in mind their point of view, I shall make a ruling tomorrow.

**Mr. Laniel:** Mr. Speaker, would you accept that the article be tabled and submitted to the committee on privileges and elections, besides being referred to you for consideration?

**Mr. Speaker:** If an hon. member tables the articles in question, we will follow the usual procedure. I cannot tell the house what attitude it should take.