persiflage
persiflage
(noun) PUR-si-flaj

Banter, flippancy, frivolity, teasing good-natured chat.

Andrée's voice had changed to a lower key, that air of persiflage was gone.

Sybille Bedford, A Compass Error.

Earlier, I asked the Foreign Secretary whether, following the verbiage and persiflage of the Lisbon summit, he could give three examples of legislation that had been improved to help the lot of small businesses.

Mr Maude, Hansard, 15 June 2000. Hansard

It feeds on an echelon of society as greedy as it is merciless: a nauseous mixture of luxury and flunkeyism, waste and disorder; an incurable air of falsity and presumption, and bedroom gossip masquerading as perky persiflage.


The rest is persiflage, a lot of exulted constitutional chatter about the royal prerogative to declare war and the powers of ministers to conduct military operations.


No one seems capable, however, of keeping the persiflage, malapropisms and misstatements from getting out of hand.