

*U.S.S.R.-Canada Protocol*

bers know that, pursuant to the provisions of section (14) of Standing Order 58 all estimates will be deemed to have been reported back to the House in any event not later than next Monday. At any rate, I suggest that our supply proceedings provide other opportunities to bring under review either the report of the committee or vote number (1) of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

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**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—REFUSAL OF GOVERNMENT TO HAVE U.S.S.R.-CANADA PROTOCOL CONSIDERED BY HOUSE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Macquarrie:

That this House regrets the refusal of the government to bring before the House for consideration and decision the U.S.S.R.-Canada protocol in order that all aspects of this relationship can be considered before implementation.

**Mr. Speaker:** When the House rose at one o'clock the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) had the floor and I believe he still had a few minutes of his time left. I see he now indicates that he had completed his remarks. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, Shakespeare had a title for one of his plays which I think characterizes this debate, "Much Ado About Nothing".

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Indeed, I am tempted to use a modern expression and say to my friends of the official opposition as well as to those on the government side of the House, "Cool it".

When one examines the motion that is before us, although it is couched in certain technical terms, it boils down to a complaint against the government for the steps the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has taken in trying to establish friendly relations with the Soviet Union. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if there is one thing we need in this world, it is all the bridges we can build between and among our various peoples and nations. There is really no place for a sophisticated form of red baiting. There is no place for decrying the attempt to establish good relations with people in any part of the world.

● (2:10 p.m.)

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The technical wording of the motion which is before us in the name of my good friend, the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie), is to the effect that Parliament should have had a chance to consider and make a decision on the so-called protocol which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) of this country and Chairman Kosygin signed in Moscow a few days ago. The hon. member for Hillsbor-

[Mr. Speaker.]

ough and I are strong advocates of Parliamentary supremacy and the responsibility of the executive to this House of Commons. However, I think that principle has to apply when there is something of substance. I ask the hon. member for Hillsborough and the members on the government side, what substance is there in the protocol that the two gentlemen signed in Moscow and in the lengthy joint communiqué, a copy of which was tabled in the House this morning?

The hon. member for Hillsborough referred to a statement made many years ago by Mr. King concerning Parliamentary supremacy in these matters. I listened to that statement. It clearly referred to any documents or agreements dealing with any kind of substance. In my view, there is nothing in either the protocol or the communiqué. It is like a couple of juveniles who met at a summer camp and who decided to be penpals and write letters back and forth. To make a big fuss and suggest it should not be done without a prior debate in Parliament, is using this day in a less useful way than has been the case with some of the motions that my friends to the right have brought before this House of Commons.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I welcome the applause from the government side of the chamber for the friendly remarks that I have been addressing to my associates on this side of the House.

**An hon. Member:** And now you are associates.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Associates in the sense that they are fellow members of the opposition. I hope I will get the same kind of response from the goodly band of Liberals we see here this afternoon. I would like to think they came in to hear me speak.

**Mr. McBride:** That is the reason.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The applause makes me hope that maybe that is true, but there is a rumour that the Prime Minister is coming into the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Baldwin:** He is in the pressure tank now.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I suppose that rumour has something to do with the attendance of such a large number of Liberals on a Friday afternoon.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Nineteen is quite a few.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** There are many remarks being made, some of which I am getting and some of which I am not. Perhaps I had better move on. I say to the Liberals that they are just as guilty of making a big fuss over nothing when they think this protocol is a forerunner to the millennium as are my friends in the Conservative party in thinking that it spells some sort of doom.