

is not a rule which applies only at a time when Parliament is in session. Least of all, should correspondence of the kind be made public by a minister responsible to Parliament at a time when no Parliament is in existence. The reason of this is perfectly obvious. In international affairs it is desirable for international, as well as national reasons, that a minister's action in international negotiations should be a matter of question and answer, in order that explanations may be made which will avoid embarrassments between countries, and help to preserve, despite failure in negotiations, the friendliest of relations.

Unless the government of the United States is to become a party to a political controversy in Canada, in the midst of a general election campaign, it is difficult to see how the government of that country can, at this time, make any reply to the innuendo in Mr. Bennett's statement regarding its attitude towards Canada's exports to their country. Indeed, it is significant that the giving of the correspondence to the press is not accompanied by a statement that this is being done by the consent of the governments of both countries. Where international correspondence on important negotiations are being given to the public, invariably this act is accompanied by an assurance that the correspondence is being made public simultaneously in both countries and with the knowledge

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