

Ministerial Mission to Latin America

of the opposition and to the people of this country that all our good intentions, in this as in other fields, have to be paid for; that any progress which this country makes in the field of external aid or internal development has to be paid for, whether by borrowing or by levying taxes. Borrowing has to be repaid eventually, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether we might not allow the matter to stand where it is at the present time. My understanding of what the Prime Minister is suggesting now is that if *Hansard* is actually to the effect that the word "levying" was used, he would have no objection to the official record eventually carrying the word "levying" rather than the other word referred to.

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, I was really indicating that I have no quarrel with the opposition on this, but I do not want any inference to be drawn that we have corrected *Hansard*. My recollection is that I used the word "finding" and that is the word I am prepared to stand by, but there should be no inference drawn that anyone in my office corrected *Hansard*. If that is the case I will apologize to the house tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wanted to say something along the lines of what the Prime Minister has said. My suggestion is simply that it is very easy to go to the *Hansard* take, and whatever the word is that is reported will be the word which will appear eventually in the official record.

Mr. Lewis: On that point, I tried *Hansard* and of course they are not permitted to let me see the original transcript.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the hon. member to have confidence in the Speaker to that extent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

First and second reports of standing committee on finance, trade and economic affairs—Mr. Clermont.

First report, in English and in French, of standing committee on miscellaneous private bills and standing orders—Mr. Duquet.

[*Editors Note: Text of the foregoing reports appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

[Mr. Trudeau.]

THE MINISTRY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MISSION TO SOUTH AMERICA

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, hon members will recall that last May I announced that the government had decided to send a special ministerial mission to Latin America.

I wish to announce today that this mission will leave Ottawa on Sunday, October 27, on an official visit to Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and two countries of Central America—Guatemala and Costa Rica—in that order. It will be back in Ottawa on November 27.

While making plans for that mission we tried to make representative the wide field of Canadian interests in Latin America. To that effect and so that the ministers will not have to be away from their normal responsibilities for too long, five ministers will be included in that mission. They are the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin), the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene), the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier) and the Hon. Otto Lang, Minister without Portfolio. Most of the time two of these ministers will be present in each country visited.

I have said many times, and I repeat now, that the government considers our relations with the countries in this hemisphere as being of high priority. The mission which will visit nine of the Latin American countries shortly is to be considered not only as an indication of our anxiety to strengthen our bilateral relations with these countries, but also as a clear demonstration of the importance we attach to our relations with all our neighbours, and especially with those of our hemisphere.

[*English*]

The mission will be equipped to pursue all important aspects of our relations with Latin American countries, political and cultural as well as economic and commercial. It will enable ministers to have direct talks with Latin American leaders, and it will give them an opportunity to see at first hand something of what is happening in those countries. Ministers will make a voyage of exploration during which they will not only make Canada better known but also during which I hope they will lay the groundwork for better understanding of Latin America on the part of Canadians.