

Kurt Meyer

all others who should be under appropriate restraint for life—if that is the penalty—it is the man who was responsible for the death of young Canadians, and most certainly there should be no easy treatment for a man who is guilty of that offence, and guilty under the circumstances that were accepted as evidence at the trial. I can only repeat that what has happened now suggests that the house should have been informed before Kurt Meyer left Canada; but in any event, the government should have been informed as to the regulations at Werl prison before Kurt Meyer was sent there. I suggest now that this whole case be reviewed. Either Kurt Meyer is guilty or he is not. If he is guilty he should receive the punishment that goes with guilt of this kind. If he is not guilty, he should be freed.

Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley): May I ask a supplementary question of the parliamentary assistant? As an old veteran I do not need any assistance from Winnipeg. I feel keenly about this. If, as the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) said, this man as a soldier was found guilty by the courts of the land, as we presume he was, of murdering Canadians, then by no stretch of the imagination, so far as I am concerned, should he be permitted to spend a week end visiting his wife, anybody else's wife, or anyone else. I should like to ask a question through you, Mr. Speaker. We have never yet been definitely assured of what has happened to the man who wrote "Mein Kampf", who caused ruin to this whole world. If he should turn up now, is he to be permitted to visit the little lady friend he had, for a week end or two? I want to know definitely. I feel very keenly about this. Either this man is guilty or he is not.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Cruickshank: If he is guilty, as I understand he was so found by courts set up under international law, then I should like any veteran member of this House of Commons or any member of the Legion to rise in his place and apologize or approve of some reason why this man should have a week end of leisure at home or anywhere else. The courts of the land have convicted this man of murdering young Canadian soldiers. I do not approve of it. I do not know just how strongly to put it, Mr. Speaker, but as a veteran I think it is a blot on the law of Canada and on international law that this should be permitted, that this rat should be permitted to go home for a week end, when at least 19 Canadian mothers are mourning the death of their sons who were murdered.

Mr. Pouliot: All that has been said—

Mr. Ferguson: This German general was—
[Mr. Drew.]

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not know whether the house desires to debate this subject.

Mr. Pouliot: No, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about a different matter.

Mr. Ferguson: I intend to speak about it, definitely.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pouliot: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: I am in the hands of the house. It is not customary to debate a question of privilege. I realize this is an unusual session. We do not have a committee of ways and means and a committee of supply, and it is for that reason that I have allowed a certain amount of latitude. There have been several speeches on the question raised by the leader of the opposition. I do not know whether the house wants to continue that subject.

[Later:]

Mr. J. H. Ferguson (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I will not mention names, but I say that every member in the House of Commons does have a right to voice his opinion about a gentleman from an enemy country who is found guilty of committing acts—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Ferguson: Instead of being shot he was sentenced to life imprisonment, and the people of this country, the people of Canada, thought that this man was going to serve the sentence given to him by a just court composed of those who know what war is, and who know that these Canadians were young boys who were probably taken because of lack of ammunition. Then they were taken prisoner and were murdered by a man—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Ferguson:—who was given a sentence that the people of Canada did not believe was quite good enough. But when they were told he was going to be given life imprisonment they did not believe that that life imprisonment meant freedom. They will judge this government by their actions in this case. It is a crime and it is a slur on the people of Canada who fought in the last war—to think that our government would permit this to happen.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRIVILEGE, MR. POULIOT—TRANSLATION OF SPEECHES

Mr. Jean François Pouliot (Temiscouata): I agree with you, Mr. Speaker. All that has been said about Kurt Meyer was out of