

there must be a serious reason for that to happen or we should continually be changing the business unexpectedly. In this instance we are justified in asking for the normal business to be set to one side to discuss a matter which has been accentuated by the speech the President of the Privy Council made on Saturday.

The speeches on the address in reply to the speech from the throne normally are diverse, covering as many subjects as are covered in the throne speech. Though international affairs and the war in Viet Nam might be dealt with during the next few days, it is significant that the government earlier refused to bring forward a resolution which would permit debate on this matter. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition on Friday urged the government to provide this opportunity for debate.

The President of the Privy Council, doing something that is most unusual for a cabinet minister, has made an enunciation of government policy without giving prior information about his intention to the House of Commons. The seriousness of this action requires that the attention of this house be focused on it. When the Secretary General of the United Nations a few days ago warned the world that there was grave probability of a third world war, many people in this country became disturbed. The President of the Privy Council has taken a stand on behalf of the government which is diametrically opposed to the policy of our closest friend and strongest ally, and jeopardizes Canada's position in international affairs and her alliance with the United States.

Those are some reasons—and there are others—for this matter which is of interest to parliament and the nation to be discussed today, that the government may clearly and decisively answer our questions on this disturbing situation.

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be brief on the point of urgency. In my view, and this is going to the pith and substance of the question, the Secretary General of the United Nations, as the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre stated, last week issued a clear warning to the world about the possible effects of the war in Viet Nam.

When this house convened to debate the speech from the throne the Prime Minister enunciated government policy, and it was clear that he led the house. Nevertheless we

*Speech by President of the Privy Council*  
find the President of the Privy Council making statements in Toronto that are diametrically opposed to enunciated government policy, and that is not an isolated incident. Though the Registrar General had not the forthrightness of the President of the Privy Council, he spoke over the week end in Montreal and his speech was of a tenor that was diametrically opposed to enunciated government policy.

What happens is this. The Prime Minister enunciates policy in this house; then—and this is par for the course—he sends out his go-go ministers to attract the votes of the new life, the younger generation, on the hustings. That is cynical politics, as cynical as one may ever see it, and the younger generation will not be taken in.

My position is this. We do not have the luxury in Canada of the Prime Minister saying one thing and ministers another. The Prime Minister made a policy statement—

**An hon. Member:** On Viet Nam?

**Mr. Grafftey:** On Viet Nam and on the international situation, and the Canadian people at this hour of tension want leadership. If there is a gap between leadership and what the people are thinking today it is because of this sort of cynical performance.

● (11:40 a.m.)

Mr. Speaker, we appeal now as we have never appealed before. This subject is too important to be allowed merely to take its chance in the pot luck of the debate on the address. Why is the Prime Minister not here today after one of his senior ministers has contradicted statements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding one of this government's most important policies? Where is the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Where is the Registrar General? The Prime Minister is saying one thing in this house and the Registrar General is saying another. We must debate this today; we cannot take pot luck in the debate on the speech from the throne. The entire population of this country is waiting for leadership in a tense situation.

I ask for your protection, Mr. Speaker. I ask that you allow this debate to go on so as to provide an opportunity for a clear cut statement to be made. I for one feel, as a backbench member, that we should adopt many of the features of United States government, but I do not believe a minister should enjoy the luxury of speaking as a private citizen on a question of government policy.