

*Correspondence on Union Trusteeship*

interest about which the minister talked, should not table and make public this particular correspondence about one of the most vital subjects that was ever involved in Canadian-United States relations. To me it would be a simple question—I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs agrees with this—to ask the United States government if they would be agreeable to tabling and making public the particular correspondence asked for in this motion.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I have already indicated that the proper spokesman of the government of the United States expressed concern about the publication at this time of these documents.

**Mr. Howard:** Well, I express my concern too. But surely the minister could tell the house whether they wanted to say yes or no. If the United States government said no, I am sure that out of respect for diplomatic relationships, no one in this house would want to press the issue to a conclusion. But in the absence of any indication of that sort it seems to me that all the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) has been doing is to use his usual reservoir of words to cover up the facts; that what he means by the public interest is, in reality, the government interest, and that he is trying to hide something from the Canadian public.

**Mr. M. L. Klein (Cartier):** The reason primarily advanced as justification for the request for the production of these papers is the statement that there has been interference in Canadian affairs and that it is necessary to know the extent of this interference.

I should like, if it were possible, to see the documents which were exchanged between the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. and the seamen's international union, because it is here that the real interference in Canada took place.

It would seem to me that whenever there is an opportunity for this house to make a jibe at the United States, it does so. In my view it is far more important that we should accentuate those things which would tend to improve our relationship with the United States rather than try constantly to introduce questions which would divide us. I intend to refer, now, to a situation for which I do not say the entire blame rests with members on the other side of the house: blame rests with those who sit on this side, too. But I would say the country is sick to death of the manner in which we are still fighting the last election, and I say the demand for the production of these papers is merely a continuation of the election campaign.

**Mr. Martineau:** On a point of order; as the Secretary of State for External Affairs

[Mr. Howard.]

said a while ago, all that is pertinent to this debate are matters pertaining to the reasons why these papers should be produced or not. The hon. member has strayed far from that particular subject and I ask that he be requested to return to it.

**Mr. Klein:** It would seem to me to be a prime principle of law that when a person introduces a subject we are entitled to answer that person.

**Mr. Martineau:** That is not what the minister said. I must insist on a ruling and I am sure I shall be supported in this by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** I must repeat what I said a few moments ago—and if it should be necessary to inform the house further, I may say that I am armed with a number of rulings made by previous Speakers. I would again point out that the question before us is whether or not the documents mentioned in this motion should be tabled, and we should confine the debate as closely as we can to that particular question.

**Mr. Klein:** I am merely trying to indicate what effect the production of these papers could have. The one issue which supersedes all others is the precarious situation which now exists with respect to the wheat deal. It is important that this wheat be delivered. I have a strong feeling that if this correspondence were tabled it might seriously affect the conclusion of the wheat deal which we are so anxious to see completed. We seem to be debating this question on the assumption that this whole matter has now been settled, that wheat deliveries are going along fine and that Canada has no problem with respect to the biggest task which faces the country. Yet only last night it was reported—I forget in which newspaper—that seamen were leaving their ships in United States ports. This indicates the delicate condition of the present shipping situation.

**Mr. Olson:** Could I ask the hon. member a question? Is he suggesting that there is contained within these documents a threat, or something like that, from the United States government that either we knuckle under or our wheat deal will be in jeopardy?

**Mr. Klein:** I am not suggesting that for a moment. I do not know what the documents contain. But I do know that filing these documents could not possibly improve the situation; and if it cannot improve the situation, why take the chance that it might worsen it? The question asked on October 16 was asked in connection with the proposed trusteeship. I suggest that the trusteeship is now in effect and that the filing of these documents