

*Oral Questions*

**Madam Speaker:** Very well. The Hon. Member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

## CANADA'S RELATIONS WITH CARIBBEAN STATES

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for External Relations. Will the Minister not agree that the events of the last week show that Canada was trusted with respect to Grenada by neither the Caribbean states nor the United States? Will he not agree that the lesson is that if you try to ride all horses simultaneously, you end up being trusted by none? Will he also tell us why the Minister responsible for international trade is responding to questions on this subject rather than himself?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I am responding to questions on this matter as Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. In relation to what the Hon. Member has said, surely, Madam Speaker, he is perceptive enough to know the reason we were not consulted was because of the fact we are known to be a country which is seeking peace and is hesitant about becoming involved in any military intervention.

I point out to the Hon. Member through you, Madam Speaker, that once there had been a meeting of the Caricom nations, and once Trinidad and Belize indicated their opposition to military intervention, even though Trinidad is the nearest possible country to Grenada and it was not consulted, no one was consulted except those countries in the area which had already indicated they were in favour of an invasion. They did not want to consult with anyone who was going to slow down the process or ask that remedies other than an invasion be carefully examined.

## TEXT OF TELEX COMMUNICATION FROM BARBADOS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, first of all would the Minister be kind enough to facilitate the House by the tabling of the telex to which he referred? Also, who in fact is not telling the truth? He or Prime Minister Tom Adams, whom I have known for a long time, and his father before him, is an honourable man. He says he did advise our High Commissioner in Barbados that military intervention seemed to be the only answer.

**Mr. Pepin:** By whom?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Tell us who in fact is telling the truth. The Minister or Mr. Adams?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I have known Tom Adams for a long while. He was on my committee when I was chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I have a very high regard for Prime Minister Tom Adams. I do not think it is a question of who is telling the truth. I want to tell the Hon. Member to read the different versions of the New Testament by the different Apostles.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Regan:** He will see how different people recollect the same situation in different ways, and from different perspectives. I suggest that what you have here is a situation that in a discussion Noble Power had occasion, as our High Commissioner, to note carefully, as High Commissioners are trained to do, the contents of the discussion and report them immediately. That is contrasted with Tom Adams' recollection a few days later, after the very important other matters he had been involved in as a participant in the invasion.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** I will be lenient because it is the Leader of the Opposition, but I must tell him in advance that I have to allow only one question because Question Period is over.

## REQUEST THAT TELEX BE TABLED

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, St. Francis of Assisi may never recover from what the hon. gentleman just said. Lent is coming in a hurry, and there is going to be a lot of penance on the other side to be paid for this kind of answer.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Minister made specific reference to an important telex in which an officer of this Government was apprised of an important fact by the Prime Minister of Barbados. Will he table that and related documents in the House immediately, so that Members of this House can pass an objective judgment as to which of the Apostles is telling the truth?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, I would have thought that the Right Honourable—excuse me, the Leader of the Opposition—

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stevens:** You are right.

**Mr. McDermid:** It is coming.

**Mr. Regan:** Madam Speaker, I had in mind that the previous Leader of the Opposition was Right Honourable. May I say I would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition, from his education at St. Francis Xavier University, would have learned that St. Francis was not one of the Apostles.

**Mr. Mulroney:** I never suggested he was.

**Mr. Regan:** I have to say that I am somewhat shocked. I knew the Honourable Leader was deficient in some other knowledge, but I thought he might have known that. I think it is more likely that he is here portraying the doubter, Saint Thomas.