

*Canada-U.S. Automobile Agreement*

Committee at once. We may find that as many Members would attend the hearings of the Committee on External Affairs during such a discussion there as would be in attendance during such a discussion in the committee of the Whole. I can assure the House that the Secretary of State for External Affairs would be in attendance at such hearings to answer questions and take part in the discussion. Indeed, if it were desirable and I was invited, I would be glad to attend and take part.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the way I have suggested would be the best way to proceed, and I can give my assurance to my hon. friend and the House that we would be prepared to facilitate that kind of discussion at the earliest possible date.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Nesbitt:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten):** Order, please. I should like to read citation 234(2) of Beauchesne's fourth edition, as it appears at page 199.

It often happens, on the motion that the Speaker leave the Chair for Committee of Supply, that members air grievances without moving amendments. A member may speak on railway rates, another on naturalization, and so on. Five or six different matters may then be brought to the Government's attention. Once debate is concluded on one matter and another matter intervenes, members cannot again discuss the former.

Therefore, I would ask whether there are any other Members of the House who wish to speak on the matter referred to by the hon. Member for Oxford.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION UNDER  
CANADA-U.S. AUTOMOBILE AGREEMENT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, let me just say one word about the matter the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has disposed of by his suggestion. I think there ought to be a debate at an early date on foreign affairs. I personally would prefer to have such a debate in the House, though there could be a full discussion at hearings of a committee of the House. Such a debate should be held in abeyance until the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Martin) has returned from overseas, in view of the fact that during his visit I am sure he has obtained a good deal of information which he may or may not wish to pass on to Members of the House and to the country generally. It would be at least an interesting exercise in the process of extraction, to see

[Mr. Pearson.]

just how much hon. Members could find out from the Secretary of State for External Affairs regarding what is taking place in the world and Canadian foreign policy generally.

**Mr. Pearson:** That would be a painless extraction.

**Mr. Douglas:** It might be a painless extraction as far as the Secretary of State for External Affairs is concerned, but it might not be as painless for hon. Members who were attempting to obtain that information from him.

Such a debate could take place as a result of calling the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. However, I understand from what has been said this afternoon by the hon. Member for Ontario (Mr. Starr) that the Official Opposition is in favour of allowing this supply motion to go through without debate, and to get on with the business of the House. We as a party are as anxious as any that the business of this House be proceeded with, with the least possible delay. But there are two reasons why we feel that a debate should take place on this motion to go into Committee of Supply. The first is the statements which were made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) himself on Friday evening in Montreal in which the Prime Minister seemed to take the position that the Opposition groups were ducking any no confidence votes and that one of these days either the opposition would miscalculate or the Government would have to calculate in such a way as to bring about an election. I want to tell the Prime Minister that in so far as the Opposition is concerned he ought not to misunderstand the role of this party at least.

● (4:40 p.m.)

We have taken the position ever since the last election that we are prepared to cooperate with the Government in getting legislation passed just as expeditiously as possible, that we will not indulge in obstruction and that we are prepared to support any legislation the Government brings down which we can convince ourselves is in the public interest. But we will not back away, Mr. Speaker, from discharging our responsibilities as Members of the Opposition in criticizing Government legislation or in opposing those things with which we disagree, even though the Prime Minister chooses to wield the big stick.

I want to tell the Prime Minister that if he wants an election he does not need to