

*Privilege—Mr. Reynolds*MR. REYNOLDS—EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS BETWEEN
CANADIAN AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS RESPECTING
“GREENPEACE III”

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege regarding questions that I put on April 9, 1975, as reported at page 4643 of *Hansard*, to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen) as well as the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Sharp) at that time regarding the *Greenpeace III*. The question I put to the Acting Prime Minister at that time was:

Would he be prepared, on behalf of the government, to table all documents exchanged between the government and any department of the French government that had anything at all to do with the *Greenpeace III*?

The Acting Prime Minister answered as follows:

I will take that under consideration, Mr. Speaker, but I should like to reaffirm what my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said, that I did not nor did any of the officials at that time have any correspondence or conversations with the French government along the lines suggested.

I respect that answer and I am sure the minister thought he was giving us a correct answer. But yesterday into my hands came a document which is confidential and headed “Department of Defence, Nuclear Testing Centres Branch” of the French government. I have had it translated by the translation department of the House of Commons and the document leaves no doubt as to the fact that there must have been some correspondence between someone in the government or one of its officials and the French government, because the document states:

After having ascertained from you that no retaliatory measures would have to be feared from the Canadian government on our Air France and Cotam airlines stopping in Montreal, I decided to carry out this boarding in the early afternoon of August 15.

This document is from Vice-Admiral Claverie, the commanding officer of the nuclear testing operations group, and was sent to the general of the air corps, nuclear testing centre director of the French government. I know that in your past ruling, Mr. Speaker, you said that disputes between members are not questions of privilege, but in my argument in this case I am saying that I did not have a dispute with the Acting Prime Minister at that time. I think that members of the House would like to know the facts of the matter. I think the government misled the House in stating there were no discussions. We now have a document that has been put forward in a French court.

If Your Honour finds that this is an acceptable question of privilege, I hope we can refer this matter to a committee so as to find out the true facts of what happened between the Canadian government and the French government in the boarding of the *Greenpeace III*. Until we know those facts, I do not think the Canadian government can stand before the Canadian people and say, “We have done everything for Captain McTaggart and his crew that we have promised the Canadian people we would do”.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I listened with great attention to the hon. gentleman. I thought he was going to produce some documents that showed that there had been correspondence or some communications between the two, but all he did was

[Mr. Speaker.]

draw attention to a document of which I was already aware. I deny that we did have any such conversations.

Mr. Speaker: Order. For the reasons just set out in respect to the previous question of privilege, this is a matter of dispute between hon. members as to the accuracy of answers and facts in a particular case and does not constitute a question of privilege.

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AGRICULTURE

Eighth report of Standing Committee on Agriculture—
Mr. Smith (Saint-Jean).

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

TABLING OF SUMMARY OF SCOTT REPORT ON ORGANIZATION
OF CANADIAN PORTS

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I would like to table in both official languages the summary of the Scott committee's report on the organization of Canadian ports.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 2,096, 2,384, 2,459, 2,460, 2,562, 2,576 and 2,702.

If questions Nos. 2,258, 2,368, 2,482 and 2,633 could be made orders for return, these returns would be tabled immediately.

Would you be so kind, Mr. Speaker, as to call starred question No. 2,555?

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION—NOMINATION
PROCESS

Question No. 2,096—**Mr. Laprise:**

1. What is the nomination process for (a) the president of a conciliation board (b) the employee representative (c) the employer's representative?

2. What is the remuneration process for the president, the employees representative and the employers representative (a) for each sitting day (b) for each half sitting day (less than four hours)?