

Expo Expenditures

lion. The expenditures which were made, and to which the Prime Minister alluded, were made as a result of an orgy of extravagance by the Pearson government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would not like to prevent the Prime Minister replying to the statement made by the right hon. gentleman, even though I doubt very much that there is a question of privilege. In any event there has been no notice as required. Even if no notice were required because of the circumstances alluded to by the right hon. gentleman, to wit, the fact that this matter was not brought to his attention until shortly before he entered the chamber, in any event there is no motion proposed by the right hon. gentleman and the matter should not be pursued. I think it might be unfair, however, not to allow the Prime Minister, if he wishes, to say a word by way of explanation.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this matter has been debated a number of times. The right hon. gentleman might be well advised to wear some memory beads because it has been stated—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the Prime Minister talk about faulty memory!

Mr. Trudeau:—and repeated many times that the \$20 million to which the hon. member refers was an initial payment and the agreement was that subsequent amounts, as and when the need developed, would also be covered by the federal government. It has been explained so many times that I cannot understand why the hon. member is not telling the truth.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to ask the Prime Minister to withdraw. A week ago today he said "yes" and the next day he said he fooled the House and meant to say "no". So I will not ask for any withdrawal.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is always difficult for the Chair to determine when words are used which ought not to be used. The Prime Minister cannot suggest that another member is not telling the truth, but I take the liberty to interpret his words in a way which would make them acceptable from a procedural standpoint. I am sure the Prime Minister would want the Chair to interpret the words in this way.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

COMMUNICATIONS

REDUCTION OF RATES BY CANADIAN OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Communications I am pleased to announce that negotiations between the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation and responsible authorities in Great Britain, Ireland, several other European countries and the Trans-Canada Telephone System have resulted in substantial reductions in transatlantic communications rates. The Telephone, Telex and TWX services represent reductions ranging from 17 to 33 per cent.

As the minister responsible for this Crown Corporation I congratulate the COTC executive for their success in reducing rates at a period when the Canadian economy faces great inflationary pressures. The new rates come into effect in the case of Great Britain on March 1, 1970, and for Ireland and other European countries the new rates will be effective April 1, 1970.

May I, Mr. Speaker, with the permission of hon. members have the new COTC rates taken as read and inserted in *Hansard* at this point?

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's Note: The statement on new rates referred to above follows:*]

From Canada to Great Britain and Ireland rates for person-to-person calls on week days remain at \$9 for the initial three minutes but each additional minute will be reduced from \$3 to \$2. For night and Sunday person-to-person calls the rates will remain at \$6.75 for the first three minutes but each additional minute will cost \$1.50 instead of \$2.25. For station-to-station calls on week days the new rate will be \$6 for the three initial minutes and \$2 for each additional minute instead of \$7.50 and \$2.50. Station-to-station calls at night and on Sundays will cost \$4.50 for the first three minutes and \$1.50 for each additional minute; the old rates were \$5.70 and \$1.90.

Rates for person-to-person calls on week days between Canada and Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden and Vatican City will remain at \$12 for the first three minutes. But each additional