

going around, and many veterans get the idea, "Perhaps I had better join the Liberal association if I want any attention paid to my complaint". The officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs are the ones to see that the necessary repairs are made to these homes. I bring this matter up now, because a lot of Liberal ministers and members from western Ontario are coming to London on April 19.

Mr. MARTIN: I hope you will come to the meeting.

Mr. MANROSS: I might be there but I will not join the association. I hope that those who come to London that day will come early so that they can see these homes for themselves and get first-hand information—because it is something that we shall have to discuss some day—and also see the flood stricken areas.

PRIVILEGE, MR. POULIOT—REFERENCE TO PRESS REPORT IN OTTAWA "CITIZEN", APRIL 14

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Temiscouata): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, in an otherwise excellent report of a meeting that was held yesterday of the Ottawa Holy Name Societies in St. Brigid's Church, I am reported as having said:

Communism is union and thus, in my opinion, not harmful.

I said that the name of communism is not harmful but that its doctrine is. A line must have been dropped.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS—CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO RUSSIA—RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Peel): Mr. Speaker, might I ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs? I had intended to do so earlier today, but I thought this would perhaps give him a better opportunity to reply. Apparently the senior diplomatic representatives of Canada and the Soviet Republic are no longer functioning as ambassadors. Russia's ambassador to Canada left this country I think a year ago last December and has not been replaced. Our own ambassador to Russia has recently been withdrawn from Moscow for other service. It is important from the public point of view that the people of Canada should be fully informed of the exact position at the present time with respect to the two embassies.

Right Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the exact position is as the hon. member has outlined it. There was an ambassador who was accredited to the Canadian government

from the Soviet Republic. His letters have not been withdrawn, but he himself has not been here for several months. There was a Canadian ambassador accredited to the Russian government. His letters have not been withdrawn, but within the last two weeks he left Moscow and proceeded to Geneva. Before he left he had a satisfactory interview with the minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Republic, and there the question of the intentions of the Soviet government was raised and was discussed. I am not in a position to give a report of the discussion. It was a friendly interview, and the result was communicated to the Canadian government, confidentially of course, by the ambassador. The whole tone of the discussion was on a cordial basis. I will not say that the tone of discussions on a cordial basis means very much. It is very much like the situation we have in the meetings of the assembly of the united nations. Unfortunately there is still mistrust between the western democracies and those who control the destinies of the Soviet Republic, and the thing we are patiently, industriously striving to accomplish is to break down that mistrust and to have them realize that we only wish them well and that we only desire to have them wish us well. The hon. member has attended some of these meetings. He knows we are making some slow progress in accomplishing that result. I would be delighted to see it make more rapid progress. But, just as it takes two to make a bargain, it takes two to determine the exact atmosphere of diplomatic negotiations. The present situation is not discouraging, though it is disappointing.

Mr. KNOWLES: Will my hon. friend permit a question for information? He said that the letters of the Canadian ambassador to Moscow had not been withdrawn. Do I understand that technically Mr. Wilgress is now ambassador to both the U.S.S.R. and Switzerland?

Mr. ST. LAURENT: I should not like to say he is technically ambassador to both the U.S.S.R. and Switzerland. The diplomatic practice is that the letters of one ambassador are not withdrawn until those of his successor are presented, unless one wishes to break off diplomatic relations. Since there is no desire on our part or on the part of the Russians to break off diplomatic relations there has been no tendering of letters of recall by either government to the other. So that the technical situation is that there is still a Russian embassy accredited to Canada and a Canadian embassy accredited to Moscow, but that