

U.S.S.R.-Canada Protocol

An hon. Member: Throw your notes away.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.

Mr. Paproski: Table your speech.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): This point has been raised many times in this House. While there is a Standing Order that prevents hon. members from reading speeches, it is very difficult to prevent members from referring to notes, as is done very frequently in this chamber. It is also very difficult for the Chair to rule on this point. The mere fact that this practice is brought to the attention of the Chair and hon. members on different occasions is, I think, a favourable reminder and of some use to the House and hon. members.

Mr. Baldwin: On that point of order, Mr. Speaker, I should just like to say that if the hon. member does read he should read scientifically.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, the intelligence level of the interventions is perhaps a good reflection of the amount of homework hon. members have done on this subject.

Mr. Danforth: Tell us who wrote your speech.

Mr. Gillespie: As I was saying in reference to the speech of the hon. member for Hillsborough, it seems to me he approached his subject with interest but at the critical moment he backed off. He was not prepared to really deal with the question: Are we against information exchanges with Russia? He suggested, I think to his discredit—he did more than that he insinuated—that in some way this protocol which Canada signed with the U.S.S.R. was downgrading the relationship between us and our good friends. I think this was contemptible and unworthy of him. I do not think he has to stoop to this kind of tactic in this House.

Mr. MacInnis: You are reading again.

Mr. Gillespie: I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that his leader would not share his views. Let me read from some remarks his leader made, as reported in the press, about a year ago following a one week trip to Russia. Perhaps it is worth-while pointing out in this connection that Mr. Nixon, President of the United States, on an earlier occasion took only 10 days. I refer to an article by Robert Stanfield which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* on Saturday, August 1, 1970, in which he said:

There is, however, room for co-operation between us in such things as the exchange of information concerning this area—

He was referring to a recent visit he had made to the Arctic Institute in Leningrad. He went on to say:

Beyond politics, questions of international trade patterns and Canadian-Soviet trade relations frequently come to the fore. I am convinced that the door is far from closed to imaginative and sustained Canadian activities in this field in the Soviet Union.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: The Leader of the Opposition then posed this thought to himself, having stated that he recognized some means were necessary:

—the U.S.S.R. and the western countries must work out a means of peaceful co-existence no matter what name we may choose to call it.

I suggest the protocol which was signed between Canada and the U.S.S.R. very recently is precisely the kind of means the Leader of the Opposition had in mind. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), in his response to the hon. member for Hillsborough, challenged him to say that he or his party were not in agreement with the protocol. The hon. member for Hillsborough did not accept the challenge, so, we can only assume that he does accept the protocol to which I have referred.

Mr. MacInnis: You are reading again.

Mr. Gillespie: The question we must ask ourselves—

An hon. Member: At least you can read.

Mr. Gillespie: —is whether there is any language in the protocol which the hon. member does not accept? He has given us no evidence in his speech today that he repudiates any of the language of the protocol. Instead, he stated that in some way the protocol should have been presented to Parliament before it was signed. The Secretary of State for External Affairs made it quite clear in his remarks that there is ample precedent for signing protocols before presenting them to this House. In fact, he cited an occasion when the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) was the Prime Minister and a protocol was arranged or signed between Canada and the Chinese.

Mr. MacInnis: And the Liberals called it criminal.

Mr. Gillespie: I would ask the right hon. gentleman, who I believe will be speaking in this debate shortly, if he would refute the fact that this protocol was not tabled in Parliament before it was signed.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to point out that there never was a protocol with China.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

An hon. Member: Get your facts straight.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the right hon. gentleman will have ample opportunity to elaborate on that point during his remarks.

Mr. MacInnis: You had to put that page away without reading it.

Mr. Gillespie: Let me clear up a point which may be bothering hon. members opposite as to what a Protocol actually is.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh, here we go.