

Supply—Finance

Mr. Chevrier: If I did have the minister's text, I would certainly read it, but I only have extracts. I shall not press this matter any further.

I should like to conclude by reading into *Hansard* part of a document which is prepared regularly by the government's information service at Canada House, in London, a service which is well known to any member who travels a bit. Here is what that document issued by Canada House, in London, said about the conference. The comments, which are taken from the *Sunday Telegraph* of September 24, read as follows:

(Text):

But we would do well to pay far more attention to the implications of the commonwealth finance ministers unqualified disagreement of the week before.

Even now, I am not, repeat, not sure that the burden of the Accra communique has been fully understood here... Recording that all other commonwealth representatives expressed grave apprehension and concern at the British application to join the common market, it doubted whether we would, in fact, be able to negotiate adequate protection for commonwealth interests, and implied the complete collapse of the commonwealth as a political entity without such protection.

But behind this lies something new. Until Accra, it had been commonwealth policy to insist on the need for its various economic interests to be accommodated in an U.K.-common market agreement. The Accra communique represents, for the first time, a deliberate attempt to sabotage British entry altogether.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): An utterly false statement.

Mr. Chevrier: Well, you had better get it straight at Canada House; this is your own document.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is not a statement from Canada House. The hon. member is quoting now a statement from a United Kingdom publication and he is trying to drag in Canada House. All that Canada House does is to gather together these statements appearing in the United Kingdom newspapers, so let us not have any misrepresentation about Canada House.

Mr. Chevrier: Is this a point of order?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): This is a false statement in a British newspaper.

Mr. Chevrier: The minister likes to interrupt me, but whenever I interrupt him he calls on the rules of the house to be put into effect.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. member is quoting a false report.

Mr. Chevrier: I should like to continue with this report.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): It is a false report.

Mr. Chevrier: It emanates from Canada House, London.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, it does not.

Mr. Chevrier: Yes, it does, and I continue with the last paragraph.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Chairman, on a point—

Mr. Chevrier: I quote:

At present, this is the policy—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chevrier: I do not yield, Mr. Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman: The Minister of Finance, on a point of order.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): The hon. member is reading a document which he says comes from Canada House, and he is trying to put the authority of Canada House behind it. That is not a document, Mr. Chairman, that has the authority of Canada House behind it any more than the post office of this country is responsible for the accuracy of the texts it may carry through the mails.

Mr. Benidickson: Canada House sent it out.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): If the hon. member is pretending that Canada House stands behind this, that is a misrepresentation. This is simply an extract from a British newspaper, and the article was written by someone who was not at Accra. It is not an accurate interpretation of what happened at Accra.

Mr. Chevrier: The minister is annoyed by what I have said.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Because it is a departure from the truth.

Mr. Chevrier: I have not departed from the truth. I said at the outset of my remarks, if you had listened or if you had understood, either one or the other, that this was prepared by the information office at Canada House, and I submit I have the right to read the last paragraph. I quote:

At present, this is the policy only of the Canadians, whose eloquent finance minister, Mr. Fleming, drafted the document. Mr. Fleming, a political to his fingertips,—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I can help the hon. member with what was said.

Mr. Chevrier:

—is well aware of the value of the appealing over the heads of the British government to the profound fund of commonwealth sentiment that exists in this country.

(Translation):

In concluding, I should like to say that I understand now why the minister did not like the last part of that statement. He did not like it because probably—