

Inquiries of the Ministry

Acting Prime Minister seek to clear up the present confusion by asking for authority to table the one document that was passed on July 29?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I will consider this suggestion. Certainly I would have thought there was an obligation upon those who have published or got access to it to reveal the whole of the document. As I said earlier, I have looked at the cabinet decisions and this document is not a word for word transcription of them. I think it is up to those who have revealed this document to give evidence that this is the document and not for the government to refute it.

An hon. Member: Send it to a committee.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The Acting Prime Minister asserted just a moment ago and earlier in his replies to questions from this side of the House that this document is now before the cabinet for consideration.

An hon. Member: The subject.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, the record will speak for itself, and when it is examined I am sure that my assertion to you, Your Honour, will be found to be accurate in that the Acting Prime Minister has said that this document is before the cabinet now for its consideration.

On November 15, at page 9555 of *Hansard*, in reply to a question by the right hon. member for Prince Albert which appears in the left-hand column the Minister of National Revenue said certain things. I will read the question first.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can clear up a great deal with the Minister of National Revenue here, because this looks like Gray's elegy and not Gray's eulogy. I should like to ask him simply whether these quotations which have appeared in *The Canadian Forum* came from any official document in the possession of the minister, and has he any idea how they were obtained?

The Minister of National Revenue then replied:

Mr. Speaker, I would draw the right hon. gentleman's attention to the statement issued by the Prime Minister's office on Friday which said that the article in *The Canadian Forum* is based on only one draft of a study prepared for official discussion at one stage in the preparation of documents to be submitted to cabinet. I have no knowledge at this time as to how any information may have reached *The Canadian Forum* in an unauthorized way.

My point of privilege is that the Minister of National Revenue led the House to believe on November 15 that this document had not yet been submitted to cabinet, and the Acting Prime Minister says today that it has.

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TRADE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSIST UNITED STATES TO OVERCOME BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM— SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the answers given by the Acting Prime Minister to the questions that have been asked, I want to turn to some other questions. Noting the Acting Prime Minister's distinction between a decision in principle and presumably an unprincipled decision, I must say that is something I

cannot quite follow. I should like to ask him a question that is related, but not quite along the same line, arising out of an answer he gave yesterday in which he informed the House that the government of Canada would like to help the United States overcome its balance of payments problems because this affects us. May I ask him whether the government has reached a decision in principle, or otherwise, as to what steps it would take to help the United States overcome its balance of payments problems?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this has been the subject of discussions going on for quite some time now, and, indeed, there was one yesterday with officials of the United States government who have brought forward a series of matters on which they would like our views and assistance.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer the obvious supplementary therefore is, would the Acting Prime Minister inform the House and the people of Canada what subjects the United States officials or representatives have brought before Canadian officials or representatives for discussion in the area of Canada's assistance to the United States to deal with its balance of payments problems? What are the subjects?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, most of them have been in the public press from time to time. They want to talk about the automobile agreement; they want to talk about defence production sharing and they would like to talk about various parts of our program. We have raised with them a number of matters we would like to discuss with them at the same time. These are the sort of discussions that one would expect would take place under these circumstances.

Mr. Lewis: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, but could we have a little enlightenment as to what subjects the Canadian representatives placed before the United States spokesmen as to the kind of grievances we have against the United States in the fields of trade, exchange or any others that are being discussed now at these meetings?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I mentioned some of them some weeks ago when a similar question was asked in the House and they remain on the list. We are very concerned about the fact that the Americans have banned the importation of uranium. We are very concerned about the effects of the manufacturing clause in their copyright act. Those are irritants or grievances of long standing. These are some we would like to proceed with at the present time.

Mr. Baldwin: I have a question—

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Peace River. If he is not asking a supplementary the Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Baldwin: My question is not supplementary, Mr. Speaker.