

Columbia River Agreement Signed

other countries. I urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to accept that precedent established by the Minister of Fisheries and send this treaty to the external affairs committee before any final agreement is reached with the United States. Then the people will know the truth and have the facts. In this way we will arrive at a treaty that will provide jobs for Canadians of this and future generations, that will provide power to be fed into a future national grid, and that will provide the water that will be required to irrigate Canadian soil in the days ahead.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I take no exception to the observations made by—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—two of those who have spoken. However, in view of the comments made—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister raising a point of order?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Churchill: State your point of order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): In view of the comments made by the Prime Minister and by the hon. member who has just spoken—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister tells me he made no comments.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, but I must remind the minister that under the rules he is not allowed to make any further statement.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I am coming to the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I was going to point out that in view of the nature of the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member who has just taken his seat, I feel that it is fair and in accordance with our traditions and practices that I should be given an opportunity to make a reply.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: An opportunity may be given by unanimous consent, but not otherwise. Does the house give unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I suggest to you with great confidence that the practice in this house is that on motions, when a minister makes a statement, if that statement is replied

to in a controversial manner as was done today by the Leader of the Opposition, then the minister is given an opportunity for a limited reply. This has been the practice, and it is with regard to that I am now rising—

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Speaker: I am very interested in the reference to the practice, but I should like to see the authorities. However, if the minister has some comment of great importance to make to the house perhaps the house would allow him a minute's indulgence.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I do not want to put myself in the wrong position, but this is a vital matter affecting this nation. The Leader of the Opposition has made certain statements—

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The minister has not got unanimous consent, and I suggest you tell him to sit down.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): May I speak to the point of order. It is of course a well recognized practice that when statements are made on motions by a member of the government, short, non-controversial replies are in order from the opposition parties. Today, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition made a long and controversial reply in which he introduced points that should be answered at this time because they were inaccurately stated. The same situation applies to the hon. member for Kootenay West, who made a long, controversial observation. Under these circumstances surely the spokesman for the government is entitled to reply to the controversial statements made.

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): If I may say a word, Mr. Speaker, on the question of order which has been raised by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, it would seem to me that if the minister were to suggest that he is prepared to refer the agreement which was tabled earlier to the external affairs committee, it is quite possible unanimous consent would be forthcoming. The minister would then have ample opportunity to appear before that committee and make the statement he appears to wish to make.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This is one of the questions with which I was going to deal, because it was asked by the hon. member for Kootenay West.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Leader of the Opposition has no right—