

When one considers the situation of the countries dealing with Soviet Union, particularly after traveling through Germany and seeing how the Soviet Union has signed friendly agreements by such means as the Berlin "Wall of Shame" for instance, I think one can rightly contend that the Soviet government alone has had the nerve to undertake such a monstrosity in the twentieth century.

As I said earlier, this is why our government should be most careful before negotiating with a country such as the Soviet Union since a country should always be judged by its past and that of the Soviet Union is not quite reassuring in the light of what happened in Hungary, in Poland and in all the other countries which have had dealings with it.

I think—

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Should you be judged by your past? You were a Conservative before being a Creditiste.

**Mr. Gauthier:** I beg your pardon? Mr. Speaker, we were speaking of relations between countries and not between individuals. Someone is asking me personal questions. This is not our subject at the moment. I will not be diverted from it and I only want to make a few remarks without directly blaming the government. This is only a warning because we must be careful. In *Le Devoir* you can read, and I quote:

Trudeau might displease U.S.A.

Earlier I mentioned two giants. I keep on quoting:

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau might displease the United States and his other Atlantic alliance partners in his efforts to reinforce the Ottawa-Moscow relations. This is what some Canadian leaders hold.

But, they add, Trudeau considers political risk a necessity for Canada which must assert its independence against the almighty influence of Washington.

During a press conference in Moscow last Thursday, the Prime Minister stated that his strategic "diversification" of political contacts was necessary to overcome the overpowering pressure of the United States on Canadian business.

The United States is Canada's most important trade partner and probably exert on it the most powerful cultural influence. Both countries also have concluded a mutual defence agreement within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Several trade interests in Canada belong to American corporations.

The Canadian people are quite aware of this situation. Trudeau wants to do something about it. More than ever, Canada carries on commercial exchanges with communist countries. Last year, Trudeau established diplomatic relations with communist China, against the wishes of the United States. He also withdrew Canadian troops from NATO Command.

These matters are quite thorny. The Prime Minister, for instance, suggests that he will invite the Soviet Union to reduce the size of its troops in Europe, while Canada has already begun such a move. The Soviet Union, as always, puts forward a beautiful image, says that it will try to do it but does nothing. It will keep its troops in Europe as long as a single American or other soldier remains in Europe.

### U.S.S.R.-Canada Protocol

This is why I stated at the beginning that we should distrust the Soviet Union while trying to gain its confidence, but I think that in every field Canada should pay greater attention to the United States than to the Soviet Union. We must realize that we are in North America and not in Siberia. Our normal relations must be on the North American continent.

This is why we feel that this debate on the protocol deals with an agreement which is not definitive nor concrete. It is only an act of courtesy by the Prime Minister in Russia as are the gifts made to all other countries at the taxpayers' expense. This is not too bad, if it can incite the Soviet government to hold a frank and sincere dialogue with Canada. This is specifically the aspect of the matter which interests us and we urge the government, when it will eventually have some discussions, to ask the advice of the House before signing agreements.

• (2:40 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest and amusement this morning to the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). His was an entertaining speech which had all the flourishes of a Shakespearean passage, and by the end of it I wondered whether it had not really turned out to be all sound and fury, signifying nothing.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Oh, get something new.

**Mr. Gillespie:** It was a speech that entertained rather than informed. But what did he say? Let us examine the record in order to see if we can find out what he tried to tell us this morning. Did he say that he is against information exchanges with the Russians? It seemed to me at one time he flirted with the idea. He approached the subject tentatively but he backed off before embracing it.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Gillespie:** It seems to me that he came to a decision—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. MacInnis) rising on a point of order?

**Mr. MacInnis:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order at this time to draw your attention to the fact that this House should not be subjected to this hon. member reading a speech again.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, sit down.

**Mr. MacInnis:** This is a practice he has followed in this House before. I trust that the Chair will keep him in order by not permitting him to follow a text prepared by somebody else.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.