

*Columbia River Agreement*

"Leaving aside the circumstances of the dismissal of a man," and Your Honour stopped me and I stopped, although I had before me another page dealing with those circumstances.

**Mr. Starr:** Who wrote the statement? Was it written by someone outside or inside the house?

**Mr. Pearson:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs is now asking Your Honour for permission to do exactly what Your Honour would not permit me to do. If he is to be granted that permission I hope Your Honour will give me the same opportunity to reply to what he is now saying, which has nothing to do with the question of the urgency of debating this matter, according to your own decision.

**Mr. Green:** If I may conclude, Mr. Speaker, may I suggest to Your Honour and to the house and to the people of Canada that the action of the Leader of the Opposition today is an example of irresponsibility at its worst.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I recognize the hon. member for Kootenay West.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise and deal with the question of urgency, and I think I can stay in order. The motion has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition because of statements made by General McNaughton. In our opinion there is urgency of debate because these statements have rocked the country and they are rocking this government. They are in contradiction to statements made by the Prime Minister,—

**Mr. Graffey:** You are already out of order.

**Mr. Herridge:** —the Minister of Justice, Premier Bennett of British Columbia, the attorney general of British Columbia and officials in the United States. Because of early dissolution we believe the house will have no other opportunity under the rules to discuss this question, and that the people of Canada are entitled to know the facts. This house should have an opportunity to debate this question now. On that account we claim debate is urgent on this important matter.

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, may I raise a point in connection with the subject of urgency of debate. The Leader of the Opposition has said that the statement attributed to General McNaughton is such that it should be debated at once. The Leader of the Opposition is just three days late. This subject was debated in this house on April 6. It was debated by the

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hon. member for Kootenay West as well, as he was the one who introduced it.

**Mr. Herridge:** I asked questions.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** If this motion were accepted it would just be a duplication of a debate that has already occurred. The Leader of the Opposition was not in the chamber on Friday. The hon. member for Essex East was not in the chamber on Friday. They may not know what went on.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I rise on a point of order—

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** This matter was debated.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Essex East raises a point of order with respect to what?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I am raising a question of privilege.

**Mr. Hees:** Sit down.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The Minister of Finance says I was not in the house on Friday.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** Friday afternoon.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** If the minister will consult the records of the house he will find that, once again, he is wrong. I was here on Friday.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is scarcely a point of order. Can the minister give the citation?

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** The hon. member for Essex East was not in the house on Friday afternoon when this matter was discussed.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** I was so in the house.

**Mr. Fleming (Eglinton):** May I refer you, Mr. Speaker, to the debates of last Friday afternoon, April 6, commencing at page 2586. The house was in committee of supply on an item in relation to a payment of \$50,000 for engineers' fees in connection with the Columbia river. On that occasion the hon. member for Kootenay West chose to introduce into the discussion the very statement which is the basis of the motion introduced this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition. The afternoon newspaper had just carried the statement so the hon. member for Kootenay West, as found at page 2586, in the second column, read the entire statement into the record. He then proceeded to discuss it, and he did not stop there. After certain observations the hon. member for Laurier entered the act, and he spoke at considerable length. He raised questions and kept the debate going. Then, of