

Privilege—Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques)

handed over to Canadian authorities. Does the Minister share the view that alleged rape is not a serious enough crime to force apprehension of a suspected rapist?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I of course do not share that view nor, I imagine, do the people the Hon. Member presumes to quote. The facts of the situation are that, in accordance with the strict interpretation of international law, the U.S. naval commander involved took back on board ship the alleged perpetrator of this act. That is in strict accordance with law. It is not, however, the normal practice.

The recourse open to us would be to trigger extradition proceedings. That can only be done in response to a request by the Government of the Province of British Columbia. If we receive such a request, we will act upon it.

PROTECTION OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the Minister's response and his prompt action. As he knows, rape is a criminal offence in Canada.

I wonder what action the Minister would take immediately with the British Columbia Government to ensure that other visiting sailors are not above Canadian law and that our citizens are protected under our laws.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we will make the necessary contacts with the British Columbia Government and, in addition to that, we will remind American naval commanders and commanders of other vessels that might dock in Canadian ports of the usual practice, which was not followed in the case to which the Hon. Member makes reference.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East has one question and then we will have to close Question Period.

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INDUSTRY

FUTURE OF FIRESTONE PLANT IN HAMILTON

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and concerns the potential loss of 1,300 jobs at a Firestone plant in Hamilton that only four short years ago received \$13.5 million in federal funding. Three weeks ago the Minister said he was on top of the dossier. He will no doubt be aware that, as of this moment, management at Firestone is preparing to have some of its machinery taken out of the Hamilton plant and shipped off to Des Moines, Iowa.

Is the Deputy Prime Minister prepared to move immediately to force Firestone to cease any attempt to remove any equipment from that plant until we have had a chance to do an assessment of just how much of that machinery comes from

the federal Government's \$13.5 million, or is his promise that the dossier is being looked after just more idle talk like the Moncton shops promise he made to the workers in Moncton?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion I will take that question as notice. Perhaps with her connections with the Liberal Government in Ontario, the Hon. Member may want to make representations there as well. I think in fairness that there is a certain responsibility for this matter that could be levelled on its shoulders as well.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTE TO PAGE STAFF

Mr. Speaker: Because we are quickly approaching the customary time of summer adjournment, I am sure all Hon. Members will wish to join me in an expression which has already been made in this Chamber, an expression of appreciation to all staff members of the House for their exceptional efforts on our behalf during the past parliamentary year.

Our sincere thanks must go to the Parliamentary Pages for their attention to our immediate needs within the Chamber. I think all Hon. Members would agree that the young people appointed to serve us as Pages have consistently shown themselves to be worthy representatives of Canadian youth of whom we have so very many reasons to be proud.

[Translation]

Speaking on behalf of all Members, I bid them goodbye and wish them every success with their studies and in their future careers.

[English]

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I should also add that the usual reception will take place in Room 16 commencing at five o'clock and the Pages, of course, are very welcome. Hon. Members will have a chance to meet with them once again, and I thank Hon. Members.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED MISLEADING STATEMENTS—MR. SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: Before we move on to other matters, which I know the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) wishes to do, I do want to rule on a question of privilege raised by the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques (Mr. Guilbault) and it will take just a few minutes.