

*Privilege—Mr. Fulton*

attempt was made to mislead a Member of Parliament. The facts indicate just the opposite. The letter that was sent to the researcher indicated that no records had been found but invited the researcher to come forward with any evidence, if he had it, so we could pursue it, as we are continuing to do today.

Second, the Hon. Member, albeit, I am sure, unintentionally misrepresents what Colonel Mialkowski said and makes an attack, a very serious attack, on a distinguished member of the Canadian Armed Forces who is not here in this House of Commons and able to defend himself. I consider that sort of attack reprehensible.

**Mr. Fulton:** I have two very brief points, Mr. Speaker. I think what the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Beatty) has done is worse than what this began as. The Minister of National Defence fails to point out what Colonel Mialkowski has in fact said to the press. I quote from a Canadian Press story, as the Minister of National Defence just did.

The Canadian military has never dumped artillery shells containing chemical agents into the Pacific Ocean, Forces spokesmen said Friday.

Col. Conrad Mialkowski, assistant director general for research and development at National Defence Headquarters, said Friday the Forces dumped surplus high explosive shells in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans until the early 1970s.

But no shells containing chemical agents were ever disposed of in that way,—

He had no qualification on that. Second, in *The Globe and Mail* today it says very clearly:

The Canadian Forces acknowledged yesterday that shells containing mustard gas were dumped off the coast of British Columbia...

... National Defence spokesman, Col. Conrad Mialkowski said that the shells are in an ocean trench about 2,500 metres deep about 160 kilometres offshore.

From whence does the Colonel get this new information? There were no records.

**Mr. Beatty:** From the *Victoria Times-Colonist*. I just read it to you.

**Mr. Fulton:** Oh, he gets it from the *Victoria Times-Colonist*. How is it that a serviceman who was there said he loaded it in Suffield, he unloaded it in Esquimalt onto a scow which sailed at dusk in September and was back at the dock at dawn? It cannot get 160 kilometres offshore to the deep water to which the Minister alludes.

All I am asking in this case is that information that was false, intentionally or otherwise, was provided time and again to a Member of Parliament, time and again to

the media in this country, and there may well be a situation where the lives of Canadian fishermen or others could be endangered. If there are no records, admit it and conduct an inquiry.

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member says if there are no records, admit it. The original letter about which he is complaining said specifically that we could find no records with regard to that. What we are doing is attempting to find any information we can that is relevant to the situation. If the Hon. Member has any concrete information, instead of making wild allegations and instead of attacking the character—

**Mr. Broadbent:** It wasn't wild allegations. Listen to what he has to say.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Minister may be able to help the Speaker in deciding on a point of privilege, but it is not necessary to get into further argument. The Hon. Minister may want to close off his comments.

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, I quote today from the *Ottawa Citizen*. What the Colonel is quoted as saying today by the *Ottawa Citizen*, is:

"It appears that the shells are down there and although I can't confirm it, it appears they're probably artillery mortar rounds filled with mustard", Mialkowski said.

This hardly constitutes an admission that he was withholding information. What it does indicate is a recognition on his part that since the original statement, someone has brought to his attention the article from the *Victoria* paper of 1947 and he says that based on the information included in the *Victoria* article from 1947, it appears that the material is down there and it appears it is mustard, based on the article. However, the central fact still remains that to date we have been able to locate no information within Canadian Forces' files related to this. We continue to invite the Hon. Member or anyone else in Canada who has relevant information to tender it.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that when the Hon. Member previously made wild allegations with regard to Suffield and the work being done there, the Department set up a hot line to enable anyone who was involved with that, and who had concerns about those tests, to call in. I can indicate that in none of those calls or in none of the letters we received was any reference made to chemical dumps of mustard, for example, on the West Coast.

Again, if there is any evidence that anyone in the House or outside the House has that would be of