

in the press, and unless they produce the documents containing the statements they made there they have no right to complain about my statement in the house.

Mr. Hees: The Minister of Finance and I have made very clear what we said at Accra. As the spokesman for the C.C.F. party said quite rightly, when an hon. member states that he did or did not say something, it is considered proper procedure for other hon. members to accept what he says. I have said, and the Minister of Finance has said, that when we were at Accra we put forward very sincerely the reasons why it is necessary to maintain our present trading arrangements in the British market, arrangements which benefit our fishermen, our farmers, our lumbermen, our miners, our other primary producers and our manufacturers.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is not in the minister's text.

Mr. Hees: The Acting Leader of the Opposition has objected very strongly to the attitude that we took, and the fact that we put forward these views strongly and clearly. The Minister of Finance pointed out that the Right Hon. Mr. Maudling, who was at that meeting, said that the views that had been expressed had been put forward in a moderate and constructive way.

Mr. Chevrier: There are many others who state the contrary.

Mr. Hees: I would think that the hon. member for Laurier would accept the view of an independent British minister who was there, and has said what he heard, instead of what the hon. member for Laurier thinks he would like to believe was said there.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Hees: Certainly.

Mr. Pickersgill: Could I ask the minister if he said at Accra: "And so we in Canada are convinced that we are considering not only an economic problem which has far-reaching implications for all of us but also a problem which involves the future of the commonwealth itself"?

Mr. Hees: That is correct. I said that, and expressions of that kind were made by virtually every delegation that was there.

Mr. Pickersgill: The slippery slope.

Mr. Hees: What is bothering the hon. member is that he and his colleagues were not representing Canada at that meeting, for the very good reason of what happened on June 10, 1957.

Mr. Chevrier: Old stuff.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): And because they are not representing Canada they are misrepresenting Canada.

Mr. Hees: By their attitude and their objection to the point of view that the Minister of Finance and I expressed at Accra so forcefully and sincerely on behalf of all Canadian producers, the opposition has made it very clear, in this exhibition of great world statesmanship or whatever it is that they have in their minds, that they are perfectly willing to see these important trading relations diminished even though it would make a great deal of difference to the production, livelihood, and standard of living of our producers in Canada. That is what they are saying. We put forward a sincere point of view on behalf of those producers. They object to our having done so. Therefore they are saying, "You should have sat back and kept quiet; you should have been good little boys and have done what we did when we were in office and attending meetings of this kind". All they did was to mouth platitudes which meant nothing, and let the other governments go ahead without knowing what Canada's views were.

Mr. Chevrier: Take a look at the standard of living over there.

Mr. Hees: We felt it was our responsibility to let the British government know exactly how Canada felt about this matter. The other commonwealth delegates at that meeting did exactly the same thing.

Mr. Pickersgill: If I were the Minister of Finance, I would say that was false.

Mr. Hees: Now, Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we heard nothing but protests, and we have heard nothing but protests ever since we were at Accra. It remained, however, for that other leader of the opposition, the hon. member for Essex East, to advance a positive suggestion on behalf of his party. This he did in Charlottetown, and it is reported in the *Ottawa Journal* of September 27 by the Canadian Press. I should like to read exactly what the Canadian Press, a reliable news agency—

Mr. Pickersgill: Except at Accra.

Mr. Benidickson: That was British United Press.

Mr. Hees: I have had no comment to make on what any particular newspaperman had to say.

Mr. Pickersgill: Your colleague had, the other twin.

Mr. Hees: We are talking about what I am saying. This is what the other leader of the