

Canada's allotting 0.5 per cent of its gross national product to ease the misery of the third world's 2 billion inhabitants.

Mr. Speaker, this statement which has been made by a public figure, is erroneous and misleading, since the members of the Ralliement créditiste did not object to assistance being given to underdeveloped countries, but they even requested the same privileges and considerations for our provincial and municipal governments.

I wanted to set the facts in their true light, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Abitibi has given the Chair notice of the question he wanted to raise. As he is not moving a motion in the House, it may not be necessary for me to express an opinion as to the merits of the question of privilege raised by him.

Nevertheless I may perhaps refer the hon. member to Citation No. 113 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, Fourth Edition, which states as follows:

—a dispute arising between two members, as to allegations of facts, does not fulfil the conditions of parliamentary privilege.

And elsewhere, it says:

A question of privilege ought rarely to come up in Parliament.

I do not want to repeat my remarks with regard to the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). What I said then applies, to a certain extent, to the circumstances mentioned by the hon. member. I have come to the conclusion that there is no prima facie case of privilege; therefore, no motion can be considered.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

### THE MINISTRY

#### TABLING OF LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that I have received a letter of resignation, as a member of the government, from the Hon. Eric Kierans, Minister of Communications, and that I have recommended to the Governor General that it be accepted.

[English]

The Acting Minister of Communications will be the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for Longueuil (Mr. Côté).

Under Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table the correspondence exchanged between Mr. Kierans and myself.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON VISIT TO EUROPE

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Europe, where I had the honour to accompany the Governor Gen-

#### Minister's Statement on Visit to Europe

eral and Mrs. Michener on a series of official visits to the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Queen Juliana and the Prince of the Netherlands, the King and Queen of Belgium and the Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg received Their Excellencies with great kindness. These visits served to underline the closeness of the bonds of kinship and affection between Canada and the host countries, bonds forged by a shared history, strengthened by comradeship in two world wars and maintained by our alliance in NATO. His Excellency reminded his hosts in all three countries of the contribution made by so many Canadians of Benelux origin to the development of Canada and the friendship between our countries. He stressed the growing importance of trading relationships and scientific and cultural exchanges. I am sure I speak for us all when I thank the governments and people of the Benelux countries for the warm welcome given to the Governor General and Mrs. Michener wherever they went. Their Excellencies took advantage of their visits to The Netherlands and Belgium to join with their hosts in paying homage to the Canadian dead of two world wars by visits to Canadian cemeteries at Holten and in Flanders.

While in Europe, I had useful talks on a number of questions, including particularly the Common Market, with the Benelux governments, the Italian government, members of the European Economic Commission and the Secretary General of NATO. Our ambassadors to France and Germany joined me for a day of discussions in Brussels, enabling me to have some contact with all six countries of the European Economic Community.

The principal subject of all my talks was the current negotiation for the enlargement of the community. As the House is aware, the government, through meetings at the ministerial level, diplomatic representations and public speeches, has been making known over a period of many months Canadian concern about some of the effects of the anticipated enlargement of the Common Market. The government is not opposed to the broadening and deepening of the community; on the contrary, we see this development as an important contribution to greater stability and prosperity in Europe and the world. We have urged, however, that it is neither desirable nor necessary that this economic unification should take place at the expense of third countries like Canada. We have made concrete proposals to minimize the possible adverse effects of enlargement. In the same constructive spirit, we have urged the community to be open and outward-looking and non-discriminatory in its trading policies, and to do everything to avoid a trade confrontation with the United States costly to themselves, to us and the western world as a whole.

While in Europe, I re-emphasized these points, as did my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) who, as the House knows, was in Bonn at the same time. I went a step further on this occasion and urged both the member governments and the commission of the EEC to give serious consideration to the establishment of procedures for regular consultation with Canada. Hon. members will readily understand that if and when enlargement is achieved relations between