

Minister have replied to the letter in question and advised this individual regarding the Foreign Enlistment Act.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I think the reply on behalf of the Prime Minister was sent the day before yesterday and on behalf of myself yesterday.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, may I ask another question arising out of the answer given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the formation of such a corps or body would be incompatible with the Foreign Enlistment Act, does the minister suggest that anyone so enlisting, in view of that incompatibility, would thereby lose his Canadian citizenship?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the right hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking for an interpretation of the statute.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, may I just speak to a point of order? The minister made reference to the Foreign Enlistment Act and said a legal opinion had been obtained, as I understand it, from the law officers of the crown. It is only because he advanced the concept of the law officers' opinion that was given that I asked what I believe to be a perfectly reasonable question. If it is merely incompatible and not inconsistent with Canadian citizenship, what authority has the government to step in?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, so there can be no doubt about this matter, let me say that the suggestion my right hon. friend made may involve a further argument justifying the legal opinion, but the fact is that the Foreign Enlistment Act does not deal with the question of citizenship at all.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I know that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The legal officers of the crown have advised that such a plan would appear to be contrary to the Foreign Enlistment Act. It may be that on examination of the citizenship act we would have a further argument in support of the position taken, but my impression is that the citizenship act does not necessarily deal with this situation.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to those asked on this subject which I wish to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Minister of Justice. What is the present status of the many Canadians who are already serving with the United States armed forces, some of them in Viet Nam?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Well, this is a free country.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thought the Foreign Enlistment Act prevented that.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): No.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

ESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN FEED GRAIN AGENCY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton-Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene). Could the minister inform the house whether a feed grain board for eastern Canada has been or is being established in compliance with the request of eastern farmers?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think this question is so urgent as to preclude its being put on the order paper.

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM FISHERMEN AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Will the minister indicate whether he has met with the delegation of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers union which is currently in Ottawa to discuss those matters of public concern affecting that area of policy which falls within the responsibility of the Minister of Transport?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I have not met with them up to the present time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Barnett: Will the minister meet with that delegation of the fishermen's union while they are here in Ottawa?

Mr. Pickersgill: I am giving that consideration.

Mr. Barnett: I have a further supplementary question. In view of the fact that the delegation will not be remaining in Ottawa indefinitely, can the minister tell us when his consideration as to whether he will meet with them will be completed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question has already been put to the minister and answered.