

Oral Questions

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If I may read the section of the peace agreement, hon. members will find it is very explicit:

Foreign countries should put an end to all military activities in Cambodia and Laos—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: I continue:

—totally withdraw from and refrain from reintroducing into these two countries troops, military advisers and military personnel, armaments, munitions and war material.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That being so, and the minister having won applause from these people over here who have always condemned South Viet Nam and the United States, I ask him—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member for York South rising on a point of order?

Mr. Lewis: I certainly am, Mr. Speaker. Oh, keep quiet over there!

There is no one in this House who respects the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert more than I do. But I respectfully submit to him that he has no right to use his position and the affection that hon. members of this House have for him to make speeches about various things constantly during the question period.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: I want to tell the right hon. gentleman that we have condemned the communist activities as well as the South Vietnamese.

Some hon. Members: When?

● (1500)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We should try to proceed in a more orderly fashion. The hon. member has the floor on a point of order and he should indicate as quickly as possible what his point of order is so we may return to the question period.

Mr. Lewis: I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is a perfectly legitimate point of order which I have been on the verge of making for weeks. If you, Sir, cannot, for reasons that I can understand, make certain that every member of this House used the question period for the purpose for which it is meant, then it is my duty to rise on a point of order when the question period is abused in the way in which the right hon. gentleman has abused it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the statement that I made concerning the NDP was true in substance and in fact. They have done nothing but condemn the United

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

States and South Viet Nam over and over again in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I see the hon. member for York South rising again, I assume on another point of order. I would hope that we would set aside the argument that has arisen between the hon. member for York South and the right hon. gentleman. Since we are running short of time for the question period, I would think it would be helpful if we returned to questions. There are a number of members seeking the floor to ask questions, but I have to recognize the hon. member for York South if he is seeking the floor on a point of order.

Mr. Lewis: This is precisely the point, Mr. Speaker. If this were a debate, then we would have the chance to show the right hon. gentleman that his statements are untrue and improper. He gets to his feet during the question period and makes statements in the knowledge that no one can answer him in debate, and I do not intend to stand for that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Lewis: You might inform the right hon. gentleman that I still have the floor, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: Stand up then so we can see you.

Mr. Lewis: I know I am not as conspicuous as the hon. member who said that. I merely want to say that if Your Honour wishes to go to questions, we will agree. But if the right hon. gentleman continues with his improper and inaccurate statements, there will be more points of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I immediately say to you that I am sorry; I thought the hon. member had sat down but he was waiting for applause. In so far as accepting advice from him is concerned, I do not intend to join the ranks of the government, which apparently allows him to dominate them.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure how the point of order has been settled but the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Nickel Belt.

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MANPOWER

INTERNATIONAL NICKEL COMPANY—PROJECTED PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT LEVELS—PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the minister obtained from International Nickel Company projected employment and production levels at this company over the next few years? If not, is it the minister's intention to ask INCO to provide his manpower consultative services with such information?