

*Inquiries of the Ministry***AIR CANADA****MONTREAL—APPOINTMENT OF CONCILIATION OFFICER IN LABOUR DISPUTE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Has he received a request from the international association of machinists in Montreal that a conciliation officer be appointed to look into a dispute between the workers at Air Canada and the company, and has such an officer been appointed as yet?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my recollection is that I did receive such a request, but I will have to take the question as notice.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**REPORTED DECISION OF ROYAL NAVY NOT TO PURCHASE CANADIAN SONAR SYSTEM**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Defence Production. Has the British government informed the Canadian government that the Royal Navy has found the Canadian designed and produced variable depth sonar system unsuitable for Leander class frigates, and that they are not going to purchase this equipment?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, we have not received any such communication from the government of the United Kingdom. My department currently is trying to check the authenticity of reports to this effect which have appeared in the press.

Mr. Harkness: Do I understand, Mr. Speaker, that there is definitely no official intimation from the British government that this is the case?

Mr. Drury: That is what I said, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house of the quantity of these units. Are there 25 or 50?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is detailed information which cannot be asked for at this time.

Mr. Heber E. Smith (Simcoe North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the [Mr. Hellyer.]

minister answered this question his announcement seemed to carry a certain degree of authenticity. Would he tell the house whether the British are abandoning this detection device because the theory or principle is wrong, or because manufacturing costs have become so high that they cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NATIONALIST CHINA—RESULTS OF UN SPEECH BY CANADIAN MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. Has the foreign office of nationalist China asked the Canadian government for an explanation of the two Chinas speech which was made at the United Nations last Wednesday by the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. The speech made by my hon. friend last week was, in this respect, similar to the one made one year ago. If that government had wanted an explanation, undoubtedly they would have asked for it before now.

Mr. Sherman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister tell the house whether, as the result of this speech, the premier of nationalist China, C. K. Yen, is to cancel a scheduled visit to Canada?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the cancellation of the visit of that particular gentleman has been attributed by the Chinese foreign office to the exigencies of the situation in the government of Taiwan. I am anxious, as we all are, to have a visit from a representative of that government. We still hope that will be possible.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister tell the house whether in recent days there has been any other communication from the government of Taiwan respecting self determination for that country?

Mr. Pearson: Not to my knowledge. I should be glad to look into it, to see if one has come.