

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: If it is the date, the vocabulary being reduction and not withdrawal, the Minister of National Defence informed the house yesterday, I believe, of the government timetable on that. The minister will be meeting next week with the NATO countries in Brussels. When he is in the house following his return from Brussels, which will be a week from Monday, he will announce to the house what transpired in Brussels. This will bring us, I think, to the first days of June.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Speaker, my reason for the question is the confusion that has arisen concerning dates. The President of the Privy Council gave one date and the Minister of National Defence gave another.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oxford.

Mr. Nesbitt: My supplementary has been largely covered by the hon. member for Red Deer.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. In view of the fact the Prime Minister stated in the house some weeks ago that it was the policy of the government to be in agreement with NATO that the overall strength in Europe should be maintained, and in view of the fact that the government is now making it clear it is reducing its forces, whom does it expect to make up the deficit Canada is causing in this way?

Mr. Speaker: I would think the hon. member's supplementary is argumentative.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION**H.M.C.S. "BONAVENTURE"—POSSIBILITY OF SCRAPPING**

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Is it the intention of the government to scrap or decommission the *Bonaventure* and the aircraft involved?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question was asked yesterday.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**INQUIRY INTO LAXITY IN OPERATING EFFICIENCY**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, in view of the rash of mishaps on Canadian railways and the latest one last night on the Canadian National Railways,

would the Prime Minister, with his colleague the Minister of Transport, take it upon himself to initiate immediately a public inquiry into the safety of train operations in Canada and the cause of these mishaps?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this particular accident is being investigated by officials of the C.N.R. and the rail transport committee of the Canadian Transport Commission. We will wait to see what the report is before making any further statement.

Mr. Skoberg: In view of the increase in the number of accidents and mishaps on Canadian railways and the impossibility of having a public inquiry before the Canadian Transport Commission, would the Prime Minister not initiate an inquiry of his own in this regard?

Mr. Trudeau: If we did I am sure the opposition would say, "Another inquiry; another task force".

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION**CANADIANS WISHING TO RETURN TO CANADA**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Is he aware that Canadians, who now are American citizens and who would like to come back to Canada, are facing almost insuperable objections from the Canadian immigration authorities?

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, the question asked in this way is not urgent. The hon. member wants to know whether the minister or the government is aware of certain facts. The question as put cannot be accepted.

[English]

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**CONSIDERATION AT JUNE MEETING OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIVE PEOPLES**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Is he in a position to say whether questions concerning the constitutional responsibility for our Indian and native peoples generally will be considered at the federal-provincial conference in June?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this subject is not on the agenda for the June meetings.