

Inquiries of the Ministry

these very serious matters. They also dealt, of course, with their ultimate objective, which is the establishment of an orderly and peaceful world. With this long range objective I agree, of course, and I think everyone in the house agrees. However, I pointed out that there are many difficulties in the way of early achievement of any new system of international order.

PAKISTAN—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING AID TO INDIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas R. Berger (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I was going to direct this question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but as he is not with us at present I will direct it to the Prime Minister. Has the government received any representations or communications from the government of Pakistan regarding Canada supplying arms and other materials to India?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I speak now from memory and off the cuff, but I do not think there have been any such representations. I should point out in connection with the basis upon which the question apparently is asked that India has undertaken that any defence materials that are supplied to her will not be used at any time against Pakistan.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works, and welcome him back from our home province. Should those of us who might be interested prepare to direct our questions relating to public works to another minister in the near future?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member may set his mind at rest that whatever may be the future of my career, no one will ever ask a question of him as a minister in this house.

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR LEGAL OPINION RESPECTING IMPORT SURCHARGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Since the government has seen fit a moment ago to produce the legal opinion of the deputy attorney general

[Mr. Green.]

with reference to the jurisdiction of the board of broadcast governors in a certain matter which has come up in the house before, is there any reason why the government should not produce the legal opinion concerning the imposition of \$200 million in taxes?

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the hon. member will just look at standing order 39 I think he will see that he is inviting an argumentative answer when he asks "what is the reason why or why not". With the greatest respect I think he will see that not only can a question not be argumentative but an answer cannot be argumentative, and that is what he is going to get.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, may I put the question in this way. In the light of a previous answer given today on a notice of motion for production of papers, will the Prime Minister on behalf of the government produce the legal opinion concerning the imposition of \$200 million in taxes?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the circumstances connected with the production of the legal opinion today were explained by the Secretary of State, in that a portion of that opinion was revealed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In so far as the production of legal opinions is concerned, the hon. gentleman, as a former occupant of the treasury benches, is fully aware of the fact that it has always been held as a general principle that legal opinions are not obtainable in the house.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. Is the Prime Minister not aware of the fact that all legal opinions have not been refused to the house? Is the Prime Minister not aware that Mr. Guthrie on several occasions—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —and Mr. St. Laurent—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With the greatest deference to the hon. member, I think he is offering information to the Prime Minister rather than seeking information from the Prime Minister.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I agree with you that I have offered information, but will you not agree that under the circumstances it was necessary to offer the Prime Minister this advice?