

Inquiries of the Ministry

department. He was appointed high commissioner for Canada to the Union of South Africa in July, 1954, and in March, 1957, he became Canada's first high commissioner to Ghana. He was appointed assistant under secretary in April, 1959.

Mr. Gill's special interest and wide experience in commonwealth affairs will, I am sure, be particularly valuable in maintaining our close family links with Australia. These connections are especially important at this time in view of the important economic developments taking place in the commonwealth.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, it has not always been the practice to comment on announcements with regard to those who have been appointed to positions in our diplomatic corps. However, I should like to note with satisfaction the appointment of Mr. Gill, to take effect next spring, as our high commissioner to Australia. Mr. Gill has had a very distinguished career in our foreign service. As the minister said, he has served Canada with distinction in many capacities, among these as a former high commissioner to South Africa. He will be replacing Mr. MacDermot, I take it, who has rendered distinguished service to Canada in more capacities than one, not only as a representative of Canada in several countries but as one who served Canada as a very distinguished educationalist before he joined the public service.

This appointment is received with satisfaction and also with an expression of gratitude to Mr. MacDermot for his distinguished service to the government of Canada, to the public service and to Canada itself.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, the members of this group are not closely acquainted with Mr. Gill, but when there is a question of an appointment such as this, knowing the capacity of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to assess the ability and integrity of individuals, we are quite willing to accept his recommendation and his views. We wish this gentleman every success in the important mission he has undertaken for this country.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**FURTHER REFERENCE TO STATEMENTS BY
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF DEFENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister any comment to make on the statement of his colleague, the Associate Minister of National Defence, that
[Mr. Green.]

his recent difficulties arising out of his condemnation of the governments of Ecuador and British Guiana as communist were due to bad reporting by the Canadian Press?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I naturally have no comment on that matter. I also saw a report of a speech delivered yesterday by the hon. gentleman in which he condemned the \$40 million being paid to western farmers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question, but before asking it I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: I did make a speech in which I referred to the \$40 million, but I did not condemn it; on the contrary, I said that we on this side of the house had approved of it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: Just a moment. But I did make the statement that I thought the Prime Minister and his government were doing very little for the eastern farmers.

Mr. Ricard: This is the second time you have done that.

Mr. Chevrier: The supplementary question I pose to the Prime Minister is this—

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. If the hon. member has questions to ask concerning my statements, he should ask them of me.

Mr. Chevrier: The supplementary question I should like to ask the Prime Minister—and I shall determine to whom the questions are to be directed, not the associate minister—

Mr. Sevigny: Will you ask them of me?

Mr. Chevrier: I will, in due course. The supplementary question to the Prime Minister is this. Is the Prime Minister aware that in a statement on the C.B.C. on Sunday, following the violence which took place in British Guiana, the associate minister in effect repeated the statement that the government of British Guiana was communist when, as reported in *Le Devoir* of February 20, he is quoted as saying:

Don't you see? Who is ignorant? Who was in error? Have we not here a communist government?

I ask the Prime Minister whether he has any comment to make on that matter.

Mr. Pigeon: This is so ridiculous.