

Orals Questions

SIZE OF SPENDING

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I am not asking the Prime Minister to stay at the YMCA.

Mr. Gauthier: Why not?

Mr. Benjamin: I am.

Mr. Axworthy: How about the Holiday Inn?

Mr. Rodriguez: Does the Prime Minister think that this kind of lavish spending, like some Middle Eastern sheik, is the kind of example that Canadians—

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Order!

Mr. Axworthy: The word is "potentate".

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Hon. Member could complete his question quickly.

Mr. Rodriguez: Does the Deputy Prime Minister think that this kind of lavish spending, like some Middle Eastern potentate, is the kind of example we should be holding up to the Canadian people while at the same time cutting back on their services and programs?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we now have evidence of division in the NDP on the YMCA.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Was it Visa or Master Card?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I guess the only way we can judge that is to see where Premier Pawley stays when he next comes to Ottawa.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: He takes his own tent wherever he goes.

Mr. Benjamin: He stays at my place.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask the Hon. Member to refrain from making inflammatory comments about the Middle East.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENCE CONTRACT

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National

Defence. At a House of Commons National Defence Committee meeting on April 17 the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance for the Department of National Defence told us that while there was no specific provision in the Estimates to pay for Low Level Air Defence, the Department had in fact identified funds within its present budget to pay for the Low Level Air Defence system.

Will the Minister tell us now from what items of the National Defence budget money is going to be taken in order to pay for the system? Will the transfer of such funds adversely affect the present or future status of any one of the 33 military bases in Canada?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance was exactly correct in his answer. The Low Level Air Defence was approved by Cabinet within the last two weeks. It will be in next year's Estimates. You do not put it into Estimates until it has been approved.

With regard to how this will affect military bases, it will be a great boost to our base in Chatham which will be the school for Low Level Air Defence. It will have a positive effect on that base.

Mr. Hopkins: He did in fact say that there was money in there for it.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDING

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of National Defence assure the people of Canada today that the presidential designs and theatrical ambitions of the Prime Minister of Canada will not be a financial drain on the Department of National Defence by, for example, using the Hercules aircraft to make his own home movies? Will he assure us—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Order, please! Perhaps the Hon. Member has a question that is supplementary to his first question. This is not a supplementay question. Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Hopkins: Will he assure us that all such money, with reference to Low Level Air Defence, will be properly allocated to the Canadian Armed Forces where it belongs?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, of course it will be properly allocated. The capital budget of the Canadian Armed Forces represents approximately 27 per cent of the total budget. That capital is allocated in such a way as to provide the military with the equipment it needs to make up for 15 years of neglect by the previous Government. We are trying to do that as orderly and quickly as we can.