

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### FIRING OF A.B.M. WARHEADS OVER CANADIAN TERRITORY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question, the answer to which might provide some information in respect of the discussion to take place tonight. Has the United States sought the approval of Canada to fire anti-ballistic missile warheads over Canadian territory in the event of an enemy attack?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, if I may be permitted to answer this question I should like to say that the matter of permission has never been raised with Canada by the government of the United States.

**Mr. Fairweather:** What's going on at the embassy?

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, there have been indications of discussions on a number of aspects of this matter between Canada and the United States. Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicate whether these discussions were exclusively on an official or military level, on the one hand, or on a political level on the other hand with the minister himself?

**Mr. Sharp:** The statement made by the departments of state and defence in the United States set out the position quite accurately. This was included in an article which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* this morning, which reads in part as follows:

"We discuss matters such as these with the Canadians on a continuing basis. A number of aerospace matters pertaining to ABM are under discussions with the Canadians. Since these matters are being discussed, it would not be appropriate to deal in specifics at this time."

That was the only statement made by the United States government.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** In view of the statement made not only by the United States defence and state departments but also by Canadian embassy officials in Washington, that such discussions are going on, I should like to ask the minister when these discussions began and if they commenced prior to the time President Nixon announced his government's intention of going ahead with an A.B.M. system?

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

**Mr. Sharp:** These discussions have been going on for years.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must remind the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands that a moment ago he moved a motion to adjourn the business of the house for the purpose of discussing the matter about which he is now asking questions. In view of the fact there is to be a debate this evening I suggest we should not accept questions on this subject.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** On the point of order that Your Honour has raised—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I did not raise a point of order, I made a ruling.

[*Translation*]

### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### MONTREAL—CLOSING OF PORT AS STRIKE SOLUTION

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question to the Minister of Labour.

Could he tell us if he intends to recommend, as he suggested it himself, that the Montreal harbour be closed for a year as a means of settling the dispute between the dockers and their employer?

[*English*]

**Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, what I said specifically was that if the effects of closing the port of Montreal were limited to the unions and the Shipping Federation, perhaps the closing of this port for a year would bring both parties to their senses. I went on to say that an equally important segment of Canadian society that should be represented at the bargaining table are the importers, exporters and the Canadian people in general who have the right to see that the port of Montreal remains free of labour unrest, and open, for the good of the general economy.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

To do that, is the minister considering a year's extension of the terms of reference of the commission set up to study the possibility of reaching an agreement?