

Inquiries of the Ministry

to the hon. member that it is not at all, and I do not think it can be accepted in this way at this time.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, it is supplemental in the sense that it deals with complaints from members of the armed forces.

Mr. Speaker: Order. From what I hear on that score there might be many supplementaries. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question, if I may have your indulgence and that of my colleague. This question is truly supplementary, not related, as was the question of the hon. member for Kootenay West.

I would ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether his department has any plans to purchase houses owned by civilian employees at Puntzi mountain base, now being closed, for use by the Indians on the Redstone reservation, approximately four miles away.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question may be supplementary but I suggest to the hon. member that it is not acceptable at this time. It should be placed on the order paper.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether the Minister of National Defence is now in a position to answer what was my rather premature but related question.

Mr. Hellyer: As I recall the question, Mr. Speaker, notice of which arrived just before I came down to the house, it was to this effect: Had I received any memos indicating dissatisfaction from tradesmen employed in the armed forces in the construction and engineering branches in respect of the pay increase? No memo has been received by me to that effect.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NATO—CANADIAN ABILITY TO PROVIDE ANTI-SUBMARINE FORCES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of external affairs, whose silence in the house I sometimes find oppressive. In view of the serious reduction in the effective fighting strength of the Royal Canadian Navy, will the minister of external affairs

[Mr. Speaker.]

advise our allies that Canada can no longer honour its commitment to supply adequate anti-submarine forces for NATO?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I wonder whether the hon. member would not agree that the question as asked contains statements or allegations, which is contrary to the rules of the house relating to the asking of questions.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I read in the *Toronto Star* for October 19, "Hellyer admits nine destroyers berthed for lack of crews", which obviously is a reduction in the fighting strength of the navy and affects our commitment to NATO.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Has the fighting efficiency of the Royal Canadian Navy been reduced or increased by the berthing of nine destroyers?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the six, I think, world war II frigates I would say it has been increased. In respect of the others, we should like to get them back to sea as soon as we can get the men and the trades required to man them. I would hope my hon. friend would help in the recruiting campaign to see that the right men and trades come forward.

Mr. Starr: You cannot do it yourself.

Mr. Churchill: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The greatest increase in the recruiting campaign would follow from the resignation of the minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: As it is an acknowledged fact that the Royal Canadian Navy has been considerably reduced in fighting efficiency, does this not materially affect our commitment to our NATO allies?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, the Royal Canadian Navy has never in peacetime had the acknowledged operational capability in the antisubmarine role that it has during this month.

Mr. Terence Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister's attempt to fool around with the question of manpower is not successful. Would the minister recommend to