

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

number of newspapers and relates, of course, to the conduct of the government and of the Prime Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** If it was a statement by a minister, it is in accordance with the practice to ask if the statement is in accordance with the policy of the government.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known doctrine of our constitution that there is collective responsibility in the ministry, when one of the ministers purports to state any policy or to comment on the conduct of the government in relation to the particular matter. I asked the Prime Minister—and I think one is entitled to ask—whether the Prime Minister was being represented correctly.

(Translation):

**Hon. Noel Dorion (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, fortunately, I have here the exact text of my statement, and I find that the reports appearing in some newspapers are substantially at variance with what I said. My statement was also different from what my hon. colleague has indicated; in fact, it was based on a statement made by Mr. Harris, then minister of immigration, on January 11, 1954. I quote:

(Text):

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I take it that the hon. member is rising on a question of privilege to correct a statement.

(Translation):

**Mr. Dorion:** Which read as follows, and I quote Mr. Harris:

(Text):

It is true that, from time to time, the racial origin may not be in balance and some alarmists might be concerned about a temporary trend but we should judge the results on the over-all period. For example, we have always felt that the British people should represent the greater portion of our immigrants and we have done our best to increase the flow from the United Kingdom in the past four years, realizing that the figure of 13,000 at that time was too low. The figure has risen steadily to over 48,000 this past year.

(Translation):

It is on that basis that I made my statement which was quite in line with the statement made by Mr. Harris, who was then minister of immigration.

(Text):

[Later:]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, may I direct Your Honour's attention to the fact that when you spoke a moment ago you asked the Secretary of State if he were now going to correct his statement. I think what you intended to do was to ask him if he was

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

about to speak in order to correct the statement made by the hon. member for Bonaville-Twilligate based on an incorrect press report.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I had not intended to raise this if the house leader had not. The report I read was taken from a very reputable newspaper, and my friend the hon. member for Laurier has an almost identical report in the French language from another highly reputable newspaper containing in quotation marks the statement that the Prime Minister had stopped this immigration in order to stop the anglicization.

**Mr. Speaker:** In order that there may be no misunderstanding about my intervention let me say that I was simply endeavouring to make clear the position of the minister, that he was rising on a question of privilege with respect to a statement attributed to him. I did not intend to prejudice any statement made by anyone.

**NUCLEAR ENERGY**

INQUIRY AS TO DISPOSAL OF U.S. ATOMIC WASTES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Could the minister comment on the newspaper report that the Nova Scotia government has requested the federal department of health to investigate a report that waste atomic materials are being dumped by the United States in the Atlantic ocean 200 miles south of Yarmouth? Could the minister say what action has been taken as a result of this request?

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. A letter on this subject was received by my department only an hour or two ago, and the contents of this letter are now being studied.

We are kept fully aware of the means of disposal of atomic wastes used by the United States atomic energy commission. The authorized area closest to Yarmouth is about two hundred miles to the south, outside the continental shelf. International authorities feel that safe control can be maintained over the disposal of low-level wastes under certain conditions such as those employed in this area.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of