

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Does the government have any projects on the planning board to provide 100,000 jobs in the north?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, a question of privilege, or in whatever way this may be acceptable. During his visit to Russia the Prime Minister has made a statement to the effect that he is prepared to send 100,000 young Canadians north. I ask the Acting Prime Minister, on what projects?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Waterloo.

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INDUSTRY**ELECTRICAL AND RADIO—RECOMMENDATION BY UNION OF REGULATORY BODY**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has he had an opportunity to conclude his examination of the brief of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, and can he say whether he is prepared to accept the union recommendation for the establishment of a regulatory body for that industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I met with the gentlemen referred to in the question and we had a discussion on these matters. I suggested that that particular recommendation would mark a very substantial change in the political and administrative set-up of the country, and I personally was not in a position that day to make a decision on that matter.

Mr. Saltzman: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have gone beyond the end of the question period, but perhaps with consent the Leader of the Opposition might be allowed to ask a question.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**POSITION OF SOVIET UNION RESPECTING BALANCED REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question, one that I asked him last week following an indication that the position of Russia with regard to a balanced reduction of forces had changed in recent months. I asked the minister if he could indicate to the House what change there had been in the Russian position. He did not seem to know at that time. I wonder if he has since had an opportunity to find out, and is he now prepared to indicate briefly, in answer to this very important question, how and to what extent

[Mr. Sharp.]

the Russian position with regard to a reduction of forces has changed?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the attitude of the Soviet Union has changed. I regret I did not follow this up to get a sample of the kind of statements that were being made some months ago and those that are being made today to show the extent to which the position has changed, but indeed I think it is fair to say that there has been a notable advance in this field on both sides, and I do hope we can have some very fruitful discussions in Lisbon.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, 1970****PROVISIONS RESPECTING DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION, MINISTRIES OF STATE, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES, ETC.**

The House resumed, from Wednesday, April 7, consideration in committee of Bill C-207, respecting the organization of the government of Canada and matters related or incidental thereto—Mr. Trudeau—Mr. Honey in the chair.

The Chairman: Order. When the committee rose on Wednesday, April 7, 1971, clause 14 of the bill, with an amendment proposed by the President of the Treasury Board, was being considered. The amendment is as follows:

That Bill C-207 be amended by striking out lines 22 and 23 on page 9 thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"the Governor in Council may, by proclamation, subject to negative resolution of the House of Commons, establish a Ministry of State for that"

Shall the amendment carry?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendment has been the subject of discussion between the house leaders of the various parties and has resulted in an order of the House, which was adopted last week, providing for a rather different dispensation than is indicated in this particular amendment. With the permission of the committee I would withdraw the amendment and propose another one in its place.

The Chairman: Is it agreed that the President of the Treasury Board has permission to withdraw the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Chairman: It is so ordered.

Amendment withdrawn.