

resulting disruption from happening in the future anywhere in Canada, especially in the Toronto area?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I agree entirely with my colleague from Halton about the silliness and provocative attitude of some of the workers at the Alta Vista plant. I think it will be of interest to hon. members to know that right after that happened at the Alta Vista plant, I went there at one a.m. on Friday accompanied by the Deputy Postmaster General and my colleague from Ottawa West, Mr. Lloyd Francis, and saw for ourselves on the spot what had happened.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lamontagne: I think it was a positive action on our part and I hope everybody appreciates that we were told that as soon as the incident was noticed, people wearing those badges were given the choice of removing them or going home. Some stayed and some went home. We intend to continue with this policy. I think we are ready to communicate and dialogue with our workers, but no nonsense will be permitted in any plant of our Post Office.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON CANADIAN SOIL—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. On May 10, the minister answered the hon. member for Greenwood as follows:

—as members of the alliance, we are the non-nuclear power. We do not have any nuclear weapons, nor would they be deployed on our soil.

I ask the minister, when did the nuclear weapons which were stationed on Canadian soil for the use of our interceptor aircraft in their NORAD role leave our territory? If they have not left, will the minister explain his remarks to the House?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member knows I do not answer questions on that subject.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, that leaves one wondering. Is it because the minister does not know, or because he has some fancied precedent? The former minister of national defence had no difficulty in answering that question. I would ask why the minister refuses to answer.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, I believe my predecessor neither confirmed nor denied such allegations.

Oral Questions

INQUIRY WHETHER NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO BE DEPLOYED AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA, BASE

Mr. Steven Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that NORAD is going to establish a base in Edmonton, will the minister advise whether there will be warheads in that vicinity? If so, when can we be advised of such event in that particular area?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that the facility foreseen for Edmonton is a regional operations control centre. The only explosion will be in the hon. member's constituency at election time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED OVERCLASSIFICATION OF JOBS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board regarding job classification. It has come to my attention that there has been a waste of millions of dollars a year as a result of overclassification of jobs in the public service. I am sure the minister is aware of this serious matter and I wonder if he can advise whether a study has been undertaken. If so, would he table the report?

● (1452)

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the hon. member's question. I am not aware of the situation as he describes it. I will certainly look into it with great interest. I do not believe the hon. member has made a correct statement of the situation.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, the minister conveniently did not answer my question, which is typical of him. It has come to my attention that the waste is in the neighbourhood of \$100 million per year. That is related to the Ottawa-Hull area. Will the minister look into that question and report back to the House?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I believe I did answer the question. I do not accept the question as having a valid base. I do not think the premise is correct, so therefore the question does not call for a detailed response.