

*Oral Questions***NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENCE COMMAND**

PHOTOFLASH EXPERIMENTAL BOMBING IN CANADIAN ARCTIC

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Could the Minister confirm that some 30 years ago the United States Air Force conducted experimental photoflash bombing in the Canadian Arctic without first advising the local inhabitants what was happening? Do we know whether or not there were any health hazards associated with these experiments?

Hon. Paul Dick (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that in the 1950s photoflash bombing was done by Strategic Air Command at a height of 15,000 feet over some isolated areas in the Northwest Territories. There should be no health hazards whatsoever associated with this as the photoflash explosions took place at 15,000 feet.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON—SCHEDULED VISIT BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, one week before the Francophone Summit was to take place in Quebec City the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland was scheduled to make his annual courtesy trip to the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. For the first time the Government of France informed the Government of Canada that the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland was not welcome on St. Pierre and Miquelon. Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us what the Government of Canada did when it received this insult from the Government of France? And why did the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Prime Minister not publicly protest this slap in the face to Canada and to the Queen? Did the Prime Minister even bring it up with Mr. Chirac?

● (1450)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in his allegation the Hon. Member is wrong on two of his facts, which isn't bad for him.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): There is not an annual trip and there has not been. They did not say the Lieutenant Governor was not welcome in St. Pierre and Miquelon. What they said was that when he comes they would want him to come in a vessel other than a military vessel. They said that because this Government has taken the action of closing down our ports to French fishing vessels until such time as we are able to resolve a fishing dispute which is before us now because of the lack of foresight of Liberal Governments in the past.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, for the past 10 years the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland has visited the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon on a naval vessel similar to the one to which the Government of France is now objecting. We are being insulted by the Government of France while the Secretary of State for External Affairs bends over backwards to please them.

Mr. Speaker: Order—

Mr. Baker: Now I ask—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: —the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he would not agree that it is impossible to maintain a position of strength in the fishing negotiations while we allow the French Government to insult us like that? How does he expect the Lieutenant Governor to get to St. Pierre and Miquelon, by a dory, by a canoe, or is he looking for the "Good Ship Lollipop"?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I might suggest, Mr. Speaker, we should take a very hard look at whether or not we can float him over on the hot air of the Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I had thought that the Hon. Member was running for the leadership of the Liberal Party like everyone else in that Party, but it appears that what he really wants is to be Lieutenant Governor. I can give him this guarantee. If he becomes the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland, he will be welcome as the present Lieutenant Governor is welcome to visit St. Pierre and Miquelon.

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CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

BELL CANADA RATE INCREASE APPLICATION

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications and it concerns the four groups which have protested very seriously the intervention of the Minister in a CRTC rate increase application on the part of Bell Canada. I wonder if the Minister would try to undo the damage she has done by prejudging the issue? I wonder if she will do what the groups have asked her to do, groups which themselves intend to intervene, feeling they are not going to get a hearing because she has prejudged the issue by asking and informing the CRTC that, if it does not come up with the decision she wants, there could be a reversal at Cabinet level?