

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh, you don't like the truth over there.

Mr. McIlraith: We would like you to obey the rules.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is just another example of the attitude of ministers when they are on the ropes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question. I cannot understand this unseemly noise.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the right hon. gentleman ask his question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: My question to the minister is whether it is a fact that companies active in defence business were not told of this, nor was the Canadian Manufacturers Association; and that this took place over a period of three months to the detriment of Canadians because of the failure of the government.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of publishing the order in council in the *Canada Gazette* was to draw it to the attention of those who had an interest, and I assume that those people would have taken the trouble to read the very precise terms of the order in council, which was published in extenso.

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What is the amount of purchases required for a full remission of the customs duties involved?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is obviously out of order.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—MAINTENANCE OF CANADIAN COMMITMENTS UNDER UNIFICATION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerns a military matter, a subject in which he is intensely interested. In view of recent evidence given to the defence committee and particularly that by General Moncel, former vice chief of staff, will the minister explain how Canada's commitments toward NATO will be maintained under the proposed plan of unification which is being put forward by the Minister of National Defence for unknown reasons?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): It is a well known rule of this house—

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot accept this question. It is much too broad and general.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I was going to point out that the hon. gentleman, who is an authority on the rules of this house—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, this is a point of order. As I was saying, the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre knows perfectly well that it is not in order to ask a question about a statement made in committee while that committee is sitting concurrently with the session of this house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the point of order is not well taken; it is simply a point of disorder.

Mr. Speaker: I had stated other reasons why the question was out of order.

Mr. Churchill: May I put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs which I think may be acceptable to him. Will he appear before the defence committee and explain how the proposed unification will affect adversely, as was stated, our commitments to NATO?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I would be glad to assist the hon. gentleman by helping him to phrase his question a little better.

TRANSPORT**PROPOSED SURCHARGES ON CARGOES TO VANCOUVER FROM JAPAN**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he can report to the house any progress in the negotiations aimed at the rescission of the surcharges proposed by Japan and the shipping conferences in San Francisco, which would be disastrous to the port of Vancouver. The matter is urgent, inasmuch as the deadline by which the increased rates are otherwise to come into effect is March 1.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and see what progress I can report at an early date. The period for negotiations is still open.