

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will announce that policy. I indicated in reply to a question asked by the hon. member's leader that this would be done as part of the various stages of our review. But I added that we would be very happy to know, of course, the Conservative policy on the A.B.M. system.

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I too have a supplementary question which I would like to put to the Prime Minister. Can he tell us whether any discussion took place between him and President Nixon as to additional sites in northern Canada for the protection of the Canadian people?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, there was no discussion on that particular aspect of defence.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the house would agree that we might have one last supplementary question, and then go to another subject.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it arises from the minister's answer in this house on March 19, as recorded at page 6814 of *Hansard*. The minister said it would be accurate to state that discussions had been held between Canada and the United States relative to the A.B.M. question. My question is: In the light of the Prime Minister's statement today that, although Canada was never consulted in this regard it was informed about the decision, would the Secretary of State for External Affairs look carefully at his answer to see whether he may not wish to correct the mistaken impression that he left with the house on March 19.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I will do so, Mr. Speaker, but I see no reason to go back and look at anything I said before.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Sharp: The Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence and I have all said the same thing. There have been consultations between the United States and Canada in which the United States did not ask us to agree, nor did we take any position. This is very simple and there is nothing more to be said.

Mr. Speaker: May I remind hon. members that there appeared to be agreement in the

[Mr. MacInnis

house that there should be one more supplementary question. However, if the house agrees perhaps the hon. member for Selkirk might be allowed a further supplementary question.

Mr. Schreyer: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I pose this supplementary question only because the minister has responded facetiously to the question I put to him. My question is: Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs look very carefully at his answer at page 6814 of *Hansard*, which gives the wrong impression.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the impression that the further supplementary question is very much like the original supplementary.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT AS TO
LESS FAVOURED PROVINCES**

Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Carleton-Charlotte): My question is for the right hon. Prime Minister and it is on another subject. It arises from the statement made by Premier Robichaud of New Brunswick that the Prime Minister would be making a statement in the house Thursday or Friday concerning financial assistance to the poorer provinces. Will the Prime Minister say whether any such statement is planned, and whether the government is working on any new policy announcement with regard to the poorer provinces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not aware of this announcement by Premier Robichaud, but the answer is yes, we are working on regional development along new lines. I believe the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development has spoken extensively of the government's plans in this area. Of course, they will be important for the less developed and less favoured regions of Canada, including New Brunswick.

Mr. Flemming: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Is the Minister of Finance aware of any negotiations between the premier of New Brunswick and his department concerning special federal assistance?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I did not see the statement of Mr. Robichaud, and I would not like to comment on it until I have seen it.