

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if a new policy is to be announced, this will be done by one of the ministers.

The question of importations from less developed countries has been of concern to us for a long time, because both the Canadian producer and the Canadian worker are to be protected, while at the same time developing countries should not find closed markets everywhere, in more prosperous countries, like our own. Those two factors have to be assessed and interests in both cases protected.

[*English*]

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Because of public concern as demonstrated by the 10-day vigil of Claire Culhane on parliament hill, and in view of his firm statement about non-intervention in Biafra, will the Prime Minister make an equally firm statement about non-intervention in Viet Nam?

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): My question is directed to the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. Can the Solicitor General assure this house he is quite capable of carrying out the responsibilities of his department, despite newspaper reports—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the question asked by the hon. member is out of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Mr. L. W. C. S. Barnes, an employee with the Department of National Defence, was given a temporary leave of absence and in view of the publication of an article against bilingualism, would the right hon. Prime Minister tell us since when a civil servant may take the liberty of criticizing government policy regarding bilingualism?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NATO—CANADIAN OBSERVER AT MEETING OF NUCLEAR POWERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of National Defence but, in his absence, I shall put it to the Prime Minister.

A meeting of the NATO nuclear plan group is taking place tomorrow and Friday in

[*Mr. Ricard.*]

Bonn, Germany. Could the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to send a Canadian observer to that meeting?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, could the member repeat his question and especially the name of the place? I did not hear it.

Mr. Laprise: The NATO nuclear plan group is meeting in Bonn, Germany, tomorrow and Friday. Is it the intention of the Canadian government to send an observer?

[*English*]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take the question as notice. I am not sure to what meeting my hon. friend is referring.

IMMIGRATION

RETRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR CZECHOSLOVAK DENTISTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister investigating the plight of the five refugee Czechoslovak dentists who were qualified and experienced in their own country and have now been prevented from practising in Ontario for 18 months because they have to undertake a retraining program?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have been made aware of the circumstances surrounding these particular dentists and have discussed the matter with my predecessor. It is obviously a question of standards within individual provinces, and that is a matter for the province and the association, although my predecessor has from time to time suggested that these standards might be reconsidered in the light of refugee situations.

Mr. Thompson (Red Deer): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Were these men advised of this situation before they were encouraged to emigrate to Canada?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I would have to examine the specific conversations to answer that question, but generally the immigration officers attempt to explain to all immigrants the conditions that will prevail in their new country.