

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the union has given its opinion that a federal mediator might be more successful than the present negotiations have been, would the Prime Minister consider putting a federal mediator into this dispute?

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, while negotiations are going on between the parties surely it is unwise for the government to intervene. Any suggestion that the government should intervene while these negotiations are going on does not seem to me to be helpful to the success of the negotiations

**Mr. Starr:** A further supplementary question. In my question I have not asked that the government intervene. All I was asking was whether the government would offer the services of a mediator in this dispute?

**Mr. Pearson:** It may well be, Mr. Speaker, that when the time comes—if it does come; I hope it will not—and negotiations break down finally and completely—if they do—then the government will discharge its responsibilities.

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is not true that the meeting yesterday lasted for about two hours only and that Air Canada then requested an adjournment until tomorrow? In view of that, would the Prime Minister undertake that if the negotiations tomorrow go the same way as they went on Monday the government will take steps to appoint a mediator,—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Lewis:** If I may complete my question, Mr. Speaker—because everyone knows that negotiations which are carried on during a strike do not last only two hours if they mean anything.

[*Translation*]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

ROUYN-NORANDA, QUE.—OBSERVATIONS BY  
COMMANDER OF RESERVE UNIT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Has the minister received protests or representations from the citizens of Rouyn-Noranda regarding the commanding officer of

[Mr. Pearson.]

the 9th engineer squadron, (reserve unit) at Noranda, who allegedly stated last week that French Canadians were ignorant and ought to be educated. Is the minister aware of such a statement by the commanding officer of that reserve unit at Noranda?

[*English*]

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** The allegation was brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker, and I have asked for a report.

**UNITED NATIONS**

GOVERNMENT POSITION REGARDING ADMISSION OF MAINLAND CHINA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** My question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Could he inform the house what stand Canada has taken or is to take on the Italian resolution before the United Nations which would establish a committee to recommend the formula for the seating of Red China in the UN.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration in New York and the Secretary of State for External Affairs is discussing developments with other delegations. These consultations and discussions are going on and the Secretary of State for External Affairs has postponed his own intervention in the debate until they are completed. It is not possible to say at this time what the position will be on this particular resolution.

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Prime Minister whether it would not be helpful, as has been suggested by members on this side, for the house to contribute something to the adoption of Canada's position in this regard. There should have been a debate on this subject prior to Canada's adopting its position.

**Mr. Pearson:** There have been a good many opportunities to debate the position of the government on Chinese Communist representation at the United Nations. The principles on which the government has acted are plain. Surely it is not wise to discuss in detail in the House of Commons negotiations that are continuing on a matter of such international importance.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, has the government abandoned the specific proposals of a week or