

Inquiries of the Ministry

house, is to bring about a reduction of tension and eventually complete disarmament. Stories of this kind do not help very much in attaining these objectives.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to ask a supplementary question. If the Secretary of State for External Affairs takes the position that the foreign minister of the United Kingdom has taken and refuses to answer any questions having to do with intelligence, I will understand. Will he say whether he can comment on the existence of any other form of intended intelligence on the part of the Soviet union other than by airplanes; for instance, submarines?

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be very helpful for me to reply to a question of that kind.

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I noted that the Secretary of State for External Affairs had in his hand, as I have, a copy of the front page of today's *Globe and Mail* and he was very vehement about certain interpretations there contained.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Benidickson: Based on the same page of the *Globe and Mail*, I should like to address a question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Revenue. All of us noted—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Benidickson: Well, will the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of National Revenue take up with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation the playing down of this prominent article on the front page of the *Globe and Mail*, when on the eight o'clock news broadcast from Toronto use is invariably made of this page as the chief source of information for the broadcast? Was there some intimation from the ministry to the C.B.C. that this matter should be played down this morning?

Mr. M. J. A. Lambert (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of either of the suppositions made by the hon. member in his question.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF SEASONAL BENEFITS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Inasmuch as seasonal benefits for the unemployed come

[Mr. Green.]

to an end this coming Sunday, May 15, can the minister advise the house whether any plans have now been prepared to take care of those who will come off benefits this coming Sunday and who are still unemployed?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I explained this whole situation to the hon. member in answer to one of his questions last week, I believe. I pointed out that seasonal benefits formally ended on April 15, and that those employed in seasonal work are now on seasonal benefits for an additional month.

Mr. Winch: May I ask a supplementary question. As there are thousands who are not going back to employment, what care is going to be taken of them?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will recall that, as the minister indicated, there was a similar question and exchange about a week ago. I am sure the hon. member does not expect a question of that kind to be dealt with in an oral answer.

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, based on the fact that a delegation—

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of declaring policy, and the government has a right to decide when it will declare its policy and not to have to do so in answer to a question.

Mr. Benidickson: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour referring to the extension of seasonal unemployment benefits. I have a press release here which may be too terse, but which indicates that the minister has done something.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Benidickson: I am referring to a press report which, quoting the Minister of Labour, says that he has extended the period of seasonal unemployment insurance benefits. I want to ask the minister whether he has extended seasonal unemployment benefits without informing the house.

Mr. Starr: I think the hon. member has reference to what I said to a delegation yesterday morning. I did say that this government has extended seasonal benefits by two months, something that the former government resisted and would not do to help those in receipt of seasonal benefits. This government extended seasonal benefits by two months, and they are now in effect from December 1 to May 15.

Mr. Benidickson: Is there any new extension this year that has not been announced to the house?