

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): As a supplementary question, based on the minister's statement that he has seen varying newspaper reports, will the minister admit there was one opinion expressed in all these reports, and that was that there was not general satisfaction with the policy Canada has pursued in this matter, notwithstanding the able presentation of the governor of the Bank of Canada?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I will say, I think for the third time now, that naturally having regard to its articles the fund wishes a fixed relationship to be maintained in respect to currencies as an ultimate goal, but as to the immediate situation the position is fully understood and fully explained. I am quite certain that subject to what I have said about the ultimate goal of the fund policy, the Canadian position is satisfactorily explained and understood. What more I can be expected to say on that I just do not know. The hon. member knows what the fund articles are, and he knows that if there has been a departure from the articles of the fund since last June, or since June, 1957, it has been the same departure in kind that he and his colleagues were responsible for in preceding years.

Mr. Pearson: May I ask the minister, is it a fact that the executive committee of the fund have expressed the view that this ultimate goal should be achieved in a matter of months?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That is not my information, that it should be achieved in a matter of months. There was a discussion as to what might be reasonable in regard to the goal or what modification might be considered. It was a matter of general discussion and was not at all a matter of an indictment being levelled against Canada. I deplore the extent of exaggeration that has been created on this subject and, I regret to say, deliberately by the opposition.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not realize that his refusal to answer questions—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—only adds to the disquietude which exists on this matter all over the country and in this house?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member's supplementary question is not appropriate now to the subject matter we have been discussing.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, although the hon. member has spoken in a manner that is clearly out of order, he has nevertheless said something that has been heard and recorded and, with respect, in all fairness I think I should be permitted a rejoinder.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to say that I am not able to form an opinion on that matter because there was a certain amount of open protest in the house when the hon. member for Essex East was speaking, and I did not hear what he said. Unless the minister thinks it is important enough to indicate what the words were, I suggest he leave the matter where it is.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I have only one observation. The hon. member says that the manner in which I have dealt with this matter only adds to what he calls the disquietude existing outside Canada on this subject.

Mr. Hellyer: Certainly confusion.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I would like, in fairness, to make this brief rejoinder to his remark. The position taken on behalf of Canada by the Canadian government is clear, it is strong and it is firm. It is understood outside this country, not misunderstood in the way hon. members opposite misunderstand it. I would say, in answering this suggestion that there is disquietude on this subject outside Canada created by the Canadian government, that it is unworthy and unCanadian on the part of hon. members opposite to downgrade and disparage Canada's good name abroad.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the hon. members who are engaged in this controversy might find an appropriate time to debate it.

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION**REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF BADEN POWELL WEEK**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. F. Matthews (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. As Baden Powell week is being celebrated throughout Canada and many other democratic countries, and knowing the Prime Minister's keen interest in and admiration for the boy scout movement, would he care to extend to all scouts the good wishes of the government of Canada?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that the house as a whole will join with me in approbation of the contribution made by the boy scout movement and by its leader and founder, General Baden Powell. It is an organization that commands support not only of Canadians and of people in all parts of the commonwealth but throughout the world. It develops in youths initiative, selflessness,