

Appointment of R.C.M.P. Commissioner

other questions remain to be answered; nevertheless, notwithstanding this fact, we welcome this belated announcement of this phase of government policy.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): After listening to the lengthy, comprehensive but rather tortuous statement of the hon. member for Essex East I am not too certain at this time whether I should be replying to the statement by the Prime Minister or to the lengthy statement of the hon. Member for Essex East.

The question of civil defence is a rather controversial one in Canada today because there are a great many well informed people who have asked whether or not civil defence is in fact possible with the tremendous advance in military weapons. We are pleased that the government has had a further study made of this question, and is reporting its action to the house based on that study.

I suggest to the Prime Minister and the government that a further study of this all-important question should be made by the House of Commons itself, and I would think that a small committee of this house might well be established at this session to continue the study that has already been made in other quarters of this vital question. I have no doubt that the provincial governments and the municipalities, in spite of some questions by some municipalities in the past, will give to the government and its various departments full co-operation in this very important field. The provinces and the municipalities will welcome the additional financial assistance that is being provided.

I think any future study that is made of this important question should include the effects of strontium 90, as well as the effects of fall-out and radiation. I feel that from such a study might come recommendations important to the survival of the human race. [Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, based on his statement on civil defence. In view of the fact that there are some unorganized communities of 1,000 or more in population which have excellent fire brigades and water protection, would they be included in the term "local" in reference to assistance to local communities?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the suggestion seems an appropriate one, and it would be a matter for consideration by the minister.

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER**

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to announce that Deputy Commissioner Charles Edward Rivett-Carnac has today been appointed commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Such an appointment would perhaps not normally be announced in the house, but in view of the particular circumstances and the general interest in the matter I thought it would be appropriate on this occasion to make the announcement here. This appointment and the retirement of Commissioner Nicholson will both have effect on April 1.

Commissioner Rivett-Carnac has had a most distinguished career with the R.C.M. Police and brings to his position the benefit of full experience in all the problems and requirements of the field divisions, as well as a thorough knowledge of the administrative and command problems at headquarters.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate and regrettable situation that required this appointment. The decision taken by the government last week, however, brought about that situation and this vacancy. That being the case, Mr. Speaker, I can think of no one more suitable than Deputy Commissioner Rivett-Carnac to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of a commissioner who has served Canada so well, a man of great courage and integrity. Mr. Speaker, the reported offences against law and order in Newfoundland over the week end emphasize the desirability of filling this vacancy quickly, and I am glad this has been done.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, we welcome the announcement by the Minister of Justice, and we are quite certain from the minister's own knowledge and his usual good judgment that he has made an appropriate replacement as commissioner of the R.C.M. police.

LIVESTOCK**HOGS—ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPORT PRICES**

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Agricultural Stabilization Act provides for the announcement of support prices on an annual basis. The existing support price for hogs expires at the end of this month. Therefore I am now announcing that the existing price of \$25 per 100 pounds, basis Toronto and Montreal, warm dressed weight, for A grade carcasses, with appropriate prices for other markets, will continue in effect until September 30. For the period