

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the first part of the question is in order. Of course, the latter part might be somewhat argumentative. The minister may be allowed to reply to the first part of the right hon. gentleman's supplementary question.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is well known that the government has been supporting the establishment of an institution in Bordeaux, France, to serve the whole of the Francophone-speaking world. I may add that I know of the right hon. gentleman's interest in promoting Francophone aspirations and that he would be the first to support them.

Some hon. Members: Oh oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that last observation deserves an answer and I rise on a question of privilege. I point out that I was the first person in Canada to fight in the courts for French language rights in the province of Saskatchewan.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman has made his observation and perhaps he might ask his supplementary question now.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I want to put the truth before the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Apparently he is not aware of it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the House that the Chair has been very lenient about these many supplementaries. I wish to advise the House immediately that I do not propose to allow any supplementaries on the subject after we have heard the right hon. gentleman's supplementary. I shall stand firm on that decision.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, without any gratuitous observations, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs answer the question? Are there not enough unemployed French Canadians in Canada who could qualify for these positions? Instead of going abroad and spending \$1 million in France could we not employ Canadians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have already ruled that the question is argumentative and is not in order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The truth of my remarks is evident.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Inquiries of the Ministry

MANPOWER

ISSUANCE OF DIRECTIVE TO OFFICES REGARDING RELEASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister which concerns another memorandum. Can the Acting Prime Minister indicate whether the government or any department of government has issued an order or directive to all Canada Manpower offices across the nation that they are not to release their unemployment figures? If so, can he indicate what the reason was for that directive?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such order. I shall make inquiries.

Mr. Lundrigan: Will the Acting Prime Minister undertake to inform the House tomorrow of the reason for the directive and the purpose behind it?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who will be here tomorrow I believe, and can answer the question.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UGANDA—INQUIRY AS TO GRANTING OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO NEW REGIME

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the government giving consideration to granting diplomatic recognition to the new military regime in Uganda, and would the minister care to make a statement on this matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are following developments closely in Uganda. The situation at the moment is unclear and until there is some further clarification we do not intend to act.

UGANDA—SAFETY OF CANADIANS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, has the Secretary of State for External Affairs any information on the safety of Canadians in Uganda? We have heard about the regrettable loss of two lives.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. There are approximately 300 Canadians living in Uganda. According to preliminary reports of casualties, as hon. members know, two members of the White Fathers Order have been killed. We have made inquiries from the British High Commissioner's office there, and he assures us that at the moment there is no danger to Canadians in Uganda. The two who were killed were killed purely by accident. They happened to be on the spot but were not involved in any way in the uprising. We are keeping the situation under close observation, and if there are any adverse developments we shall consider whether further action needs be taken.