

[Translation]

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, I have only one answer to give. I did my duty in this matter and the attorney general of the province of Quebec did likewise.

[Text]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO PROCUREMENT OF NEW TACTICAL AIRCRAFT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the report that a recommendation has been made to the minister with regard to the acquisition by the R.C.A.F. of a tactical aircraft, can the minister tell us when he expects the cabinet to deal with the matter?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): I do not know where the hon. gentleman got that report; I have not heard it. Nevertheless, as I told him the other day, the matter is current and I would hope a decision can be taken in the very near future.

CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister advise the house whether and when he is prepared to present to the House of Commons special committee on defence the details of the proposed \$1½ billion capital expenditures by his department, a public announcement of which was made, by coincidence, three days after the House of Commons recessed for Christmas?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): First of all, Mr. Speaker, in respect of the allegation as to the timing of the announcement I can say that it was made at the earliest possible date following approval by the government and the preparation of the necessary details.

In so far as the possibility of having the program studied by the special committee on defence is concerned, I think this is a very good idea. We would certainly have no objection; on the contrary, I think it would be beneficial to the committee and to the house if this were done. We would be pleased to work out with the committee arrangements in respect of timing, the type of hearing they

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would like to have and the areas they would like to consider.

Mr. Winch: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister has welcomed the suggestion, when does he anticipate that it will be done; at this session or the next?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I am not a mind reader, but I will be glad to take the question under advisement and see what would meet the wishes both of the staffs that would be concerned and of the special committee on defence.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ESKIMOS—REPORTED STATEMENT BY QUEBEC MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Could he tell the house what he thinks of the statement made yesterday by the Quebec minister of natural resources according to whom Eskimos are only artificial citizens of the central government and get only very limited assistance since a mere 60 federal officials are at their service?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Under our standing orders that question should not be allowed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT—INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that Ontario may institute a so-called medical care plan, is the government now ready to state when a federal-provincial conference will be held to consider the rather opposite type of recommendations of the Hall commission report?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I also saw the front page of the newspaper this morning and am aware, as are other members of the house, of the action being taken by the province of Ontario. But I would like to draw to my hon. friend's attention that for the last week at least I have been rather busily en-