

Inquiries of the Ministry

Defence in the near future to make an announcement as to the planning for two exercises by the Canadian Armed Forces in the Arctic area this year

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is common practice whenever we do an exercise in the north, to advertise it.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister take this opportunity to explain to the House his own remarks with respect to a combined operation between the defence department and his own department with regard to protecting Canadian sovereignty in the north?

Mr. Speaker: If the Minister of Transport wanted to do that it would have to be done by way of a statement on motions.

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON ARCTIC ABM INSTALLATIONS

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of National Defence. Are there discussions taking place between the government of Canada and the government of the United States as to whether ABMs should be installed at any time in the Arctic?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

EXPO 70

FINANCING OF APPEARANCE OF COLLINGWOOD COLLEGIATE BAND

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is the minister aware of the fact that the Collingwood Collegiate band will be a featured attraction at Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan, and is the only school band to be illustrated in the official guide for Expo 70? Would the minister use his good offices to facilitate the financing of this unique Canadian goodwill mission by endorsing a plan already submitted to his department?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I realize how important this suggestion is. I think the hon. member's question has to be considered as an earnest representation made by the hon. member and he has to assume it will be given earnest consideration by the minister concerned.

[Mr. Winch.]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS FROM U.S. ARMED FORCES—NATURE OF INQUIRY

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I want to address a question to the Solicitor General. Last Friday he announced that he intended to appoint a commissioner to inquire into the facts which are alleged to have occurred with respect to the improper deportation of three young Americans some weeks ago. Is the minister ready to announce the name of the commissioner, whether the commission is being appointed under the Inquiries Act and whether he intends to make certain the inquiry will be public?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I regret I am not able to announce the name of the commissioner yet. I hope to very soon. As to the other part of the question, the commission will be appointed under part II of the Inquiries Act. As to the suggestion that we make sure that the commission hearings be in public, I am not able to give a definitive answer at the moment because I am not sure whether that is a matter within the discretion of the commissioner.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. Will the minister assure the House that as far as he and the government are concerned they wish the inquiry to be public?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I want to consider that question because I would not want to be in the position of directing the commissioner if it is clear that it is a matter within his responsibility.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the renewed outbreak of bankruptcies in the country and in view of the fact that prominent people are to be found on the boards of directors of some of the bankrupt companies, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether or not he intends to send those people a note of appreciation for their contribution to the fight against inflation?

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

Mr. Pierre de Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State a question.