

and if so, does he plan to extend Canada's foreign aid expenditure during this current year?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was both surprised and perhaps a little chagrined at one of the stories to which my hon. friend directs my attention. I suggest that he read that story together with the text of my statement which appeared in another part of the same newspaper. I did point out, of course, that the Government had considerably improved and augmented the Canadian external aid program, and that it was our objective to take into consideration our capacity to meet future obligations arising in this field.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member for Royal (Mr. Fairweather).

Mr. Woolliams: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): I have a supplementary question, too, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fairweather: I could not resist this one, Mr. Speaker. The Minister is quoted in today's *Globe and Mail* as having said:

Don't quote me as saying that we will or that we should increase our external aid. That would be my opinion if I had an opinion, but as a member of the Government I don't have any opinion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Fairweather: I suggest that the implications of this are serious for the country and for the world; and is it the Minister's opinion that he has been misquoted?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Or was it confession?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I am glad this question has been asked by an industrious but relatively new Member of this House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): This gives me the opportunity to give him advice which I am going to follow myself in this instance. It is advice that is supposed to have been given by the Earl of Shaftesbury when in the government, and it is "Never take issue with the chroniclers of the day".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: So it was confession.

Inquiries of the Ministry

WATER LEVELS

QUEBEC—LETTER RESPECTING RAIN MAKING OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Can he tell us today whether he has received a letter from the vice president of Weather Engineering Co.? Can he tell us also since when has he been expecting that letter?

[*English*]

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if over the noise in the House I heard the hon. gentleman correctly, he asked me whether I had yet received a letter from the vice president of Weather Engineering. The answer is no, and I am quite surprised that that gentleman did not keep the promise that he gave to me.

Mr. Gerald A. Regan (Halifax): A supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence on the subject that has been raised by the hon. Member. In view of the large number of Air Force planes that went over at noon, and the fact that a badly needed and very heavy rainfall has now started in Ottawa, would the Minister indicate whether they were seeding the clouds at noon?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, they were not seeding the clouds, but this gives me an opportunity to say that they were rehearsing for the first Canadian Armed Forces Day that will be held here commencing at 10.30 a.m. this Saturday.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, only half an hour is allowed for the question period today, and the Minister in answering a somewhat planted question is getting up to make a long statement—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Starr: —and deprive the backbenchers of their opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Speaker: The half hour question period started at 3.10 and will be over at 3.40. May I urge hon. Members to ask their questions quickly and in as few words as possible.