

to House attendance? Ten are not here and two are here when they should not be.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Is the Prime Minister also aware that a former minister, the hon. member for Trinity, has been in his place for three days in a row with a smile on his face?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, I share the distress of the hon. member. As the hon. member may have noticed, the ministers who are present in some three cases are pinch-hitting as acting ministers for some who are away on urgent government business—in Paris, in Vancouver, and in other parts of the world. But if the hon. member looks around at his own ranks he will realize that toward the end of the session attendance tends to drop down a little bit.

Mr. Bell: Would the Prime Minister mind answering the latter part of my question about the possibility of the hon. member for Trinity going back into the cabinet now that his policy has been adopted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would not think that part of the question is in order.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Greenwood.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON SALE OF PHANTOM JET PLANES TO ISRAEL

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of a press report which attributes certain remarks to him with regard to the sale of Phantom jets to Israel, could the minister tell the House what is the government's position on this matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in view of the publicity that this press report has been given I think it essential that I set the record straight. The report is inaccurate. I made no comment whatever—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Of course the minister can do this only on a point of order or question of privilege because of the well-established rule that members cannot ask ministers about statements made outside the House, but if there is agreement the minister

Inquiries of the Ministry

might be allowed to make this statement. Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: On motions.

Mr. Sharp: Then, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since the question has been raised I think it is important, if the House will permit me, that I should put the record straight. It is causing some confusion.

I made no comment whatever in Rome concerning a possible sale of military aircraft by the United States to Israel, either at the NATO meeting or at any press conference, other than to say that this subject had not been discussed at the NATO meeting. We did, of course, discuss the Soviet build-up in the United Arab Republic, which is causing very grave concern. I expressed no opposition and I do not do so now to the possible sale of military aircraft to Israel, and it is most unfortunate if any such impression had been created by this inaccurate press report.

NATIONAL PARKS

SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDING VALIDITY OF PERPETUAL LEASES—DISPOSITION OF BILL C-152

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Now that the minister and his officials have had an opportunity of studying at some length the decision of the Supreme Court as to the validity of certain types of leases in the national parks, would the minister advise whether it is the government's intention to go ahead with Bill C-152, or is it to be a dead letter as it should be?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have not yet completed our studies of the problem and of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. As soon as we have, I shall be glad to report to the House and to the hon. member.

[English]

GRAIN

EXPLANATION BY WHEAT BOARD OF DEMAND FOR REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCES—DRAWING OF 1970-71 ADVANCES

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in