

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Harkness: I do not think this is the time to go into the various states of operational readiness.

(Translation):

ST. JEAN MILITARY COLLEGE—ENLARGEMENT
OF COURSES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Can he tell us if, this year, the St. Jean Military College will give a full course to the cadet officers?

Mr. Speaker: Once again, may I ask the hon. members to show some co-operation and to have such questions put on the order paper?

Mr. Dupuis: Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I submit that my question is an urgent one in view of the fact that the course given at the St. Jean Military College is scheduled to begin this month, and if I am not informed of the situation now, it will be too late tomorrow to seek information.

Mr. Pigeon: Why was such a course not set up when you were in office?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, there have been no changes made in the course given at St. Jean Military College. However, that course is under constant revision because we wish to give the cadets the best possible education.

Mr. Dupuis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell the house whether such a complete course will be set before the impending fall of this government?

Mr. Balcer: Twenty five years from now.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to draw the hon. member's attention to the remarks I made concerning relevant supplementary questions.

(Text):

TRADE

LUMBER—REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING IMPORTS
INTO U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arthur Laing (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I want to ask him whether he and his department are rendering any assistance to the forest industry

of British Columbia in its representations before the United States tariff commission in respect of the import of Canadian lumber into the United States.

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. Let me assure the members of the house that my department co-operates fully at all times with all sectors of Canadian industry whose interests may be affected by hearings undertaken by the United States tariff commission.

As you will be aware, the hearings on lumber open today in Washington. Specifically they are with respect to the effect of softwood lumber imports into the United States on the United States domestic softwood lumber industry. These hearings provide an opportunity for private Canadian industry to make their views and interests known to the United States administration. We have in this connection been in close contact with and extended all the facilities of my department both in Ottawa and in Washington to assist the British Columbia forest industries in the preparation of their submission. Permit me to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am much impressed by the case of the British Columbia forest industries and the manner in which they have gone about preparing it.

Finally, I think the house will be interested to learn that this government has left the United States government in no doubt as to the importance we attach to the maintenance of Canadian softwood lumber exports to the United States, which are currently running at the rate of approximately \$250 million a year.

RUSSIA-CANADA—INQUIRY AS TO RENEWAL
OF TREATY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Having regard to the dispatch of Mr. Robert Moon of the Regina *Leader Post*, who has spent three weeks in Russia, and the reports that in Russia they are considering a renewal of the Canada-Soviet trade treaty, what information can the minister give the house?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I have not seen the report to which the hon. member refers. I would like to examine it, and I shall give an answer tomorrow.