

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Fulton:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry; the Minister of Justice was interrupting on a point of order?

**Mr. Fulton:** Yes. I believe, Mr. Speaker—and if I am wrong I shall be glad to be corrected—that the Leader of the Opposition is again doing that which you told him was out of order; he is referring to a statement made in a committee which has not yet reported to the house.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I just ask the Prime Minister, does he not know of a statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce to the effect that there is no indication that the British government will default on its 24 million pounds uranium contract?

**Mr. Benidickson:** That statement was made in the house.

**Mr. Pearson:** That statement was made in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The word used is “default”. The answer is, there has been no indication of default on the part of the United Kingdom government. What the United Kingdom government is endeavouring to do is to bring about a continuing negotiation of the statements and terms made in the exchange of letters, and then to have the agreement embodied in a written contract.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom government have accepted the commitment to purchase 24 million pounds of uranium from Canada between 1963 and 1966?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The hon. gentleman will know that that was answered by the statement made by the United Kingdom authority the other day.

**Mr. Chevrier:** May I ask a question supplementary to that which I asked earlier. Did the Prime Minister know about this contract with the United Kingdom atomic energy commission when the United States cancelled its uranium contracts with Canada?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I did not use the expression “contracts”; I used the expression “an exchange of notes, a declaration of intent and acceptance”.

**Mr. Chevrier:** Did the Prime Minister know about the position when the exchange of notes took place?

**Mr. Fulton:** You were in office then.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have already said I know of the general discussion and negotiations that have taken place from the time they commenced.

[Mr. Fulton.]

**Mr. McIlraith:** Could I ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow one more supplementary. The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare has been deferred the floor for some three quarters of an hour.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry. Perhaps I was not heard at the far end of the chamber, but I have indicated that I shall allow one further supplementary to close this discussion.

**Mr. McIlraith:** Would the Prime Minister advise the house as to the date of commencement of the negotiations of this commitment, or renegotiations, as they have been called?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They commenced in 1958.

[Later:]

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce. I apologize for not sending notice. It is based on a telegram just handed to me. In view of the purchase by Mr. Roy Thomson of the defunct Elliot Lake *Standard* on March 15, to recommence publication on March 16, is it possible that the purchase was the result of the release of information on uranium not previously disclosed to the public?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** I shall take the question as notice and refer it to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

#### NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MISSING FISHING VESSELS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. F. Legere (Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Can the minister give a report concerning the three Lockeport fishing vessels missing off the coast of Nova Scotia since the storms of March 21?

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question on a subject which I know has been of vital concern to him over the past few days.

The Royal Canadian Air Force Rescue Co-Ordination centre at Halifax promptly co-ordinated the search for the missing fishing vessels, and in spite of a secondary storm and later fog conditions a very intensive search of the disaster area was made by