

*Inquiries of the Ministry*HONEST JOHN MISSILE—STATEMENT ON
INQUIRY AS TO ATOMIC WARHEAD

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I wonder if the minister is in a position to answer today the question of which he took notice yesterday.

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): I can tell the hon. member in reply to the question he asked yesterday that the Honest John rocket is capable of being equipped with either an atomic or a conventional warhead.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. Can the minister tell us whether it is the intention of the Canadian government to equip it with the atomic warhead?

Mr. Sevigny: I have nothing to report on that matter.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

REQUEST FOR CALLING OF MEETING OF
STANDING COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the hon. member for Danforth, the chairman of the committee on industrial relations.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Order. You cannot ask the chairman of a committee.

Mr. Benidickson: I wonder whether the hon. member would have an early meeting of the industrial relations committee called to consider my motion, which was reserved, in connection with the possibility of meeting to improve the statistical methods of measuring unemployment.

Mr. Speaker: Order. While it is appropriate to raise matters relating to the business of the house I question whether the house decides the time and place of committee meetings. Once a matter has been referred to a committee, it then lies with the committee itself or its chairman to determine when it will meet. I may be wrong in that understanding. If any hon. member can give me any assistance on the point I shall be glad to have it. However, that is my recollection of the situation that is involved in the hon. member's question.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I speak to the point about which Your Honour has asked for some expression of opinion. I refer Your Honour to standing order 39(1) which states as follows:

[Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

Questions may be placed on the order paper seeking information from ministers of the crown relating to public affairs—

We recognize of course that the hon. member to whom this question is directed has not yet been invited to join the government. The citation continues:

—and from other members, relating to any bill, motion, or other public matter connected with the business of the house, in which such members may be concerned—

I may say to Your Honour that I solicited the view of officers of this house, in whom Your Honour would have great confidence, as to the procedure in this matter. If Your Honour definitely takes the view that he is not of our opinion, perhaps Your Honour would withhold final judgment pending consultation with your trusted officers. But I assure you that was done and that the course the hon. member has taken is the only one available. Weeks have elapsed since this committee has met. There is no way outside this chamber by which members of the committee can themselves take steps to have the committee convoked; the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River, I submit to you with confidence, under standing order 39(1) has taken the only course that is open to him under our procedures.

Mr. Speaker: I have doubt about whether this is business of the house. That is the point I raised. It is business that the house has referred to a committee. But without determining the point of order which I myself raised, I shall allow the question to be asked at this time, and I shall give consideration to the question for a future occasion.

Mr. Benidickson: Shall I repeat the question, Mr. Speaker? I sent the hon. member notice of this. I think the hon. member for Danforth is familiar with the question.

Mr. R. H. Small (Danforth): Ordinarily, Mr. Speaker, I would take the question as notice and answer it on the terms of reference on which the committee has been set up. All that can be handled by that committee must be directed from the house. To date we have had no direction.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Speaking on the point of order, may I say that what the hon. member has just said—

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): There is no point of order now.

Mr. Speaker: There is no point of order unless the hon. member is raising one.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am raising one. The answer the hon.