

Inquiries of the Ministry

the United States following the escalation of attacks on North Viet Nam by the United States?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Before answering this question, Mr. Speaker, may I direct your attention to the presence in the gallery of the executive committee of the Atlantic association of young political leaders, representing the 15 partners in the NATO alliance, who are visiting Ottawa at this time?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): In answer to the question, we have had discussions about the military actions to which the hon. gentleman directs my attention. It is a fact that Canada has encouraged, and is continuing to encourage, a reversal of the course of military events in Viet Nam. We recognize that this will depend on a mutually acceptable basis for a cease fire being found by both parties. Until a basis for a cease fire has been created, however, I am afraid that each side will continue to deploy its military effort in the way which it regards as best calculated to counteract the military efforts of the other side.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): May I ask a supplementary question for clarification. Has the minister received from the hon. member for Leeds certain reports with regard to his far eastern visit that would be helpful in solving some of the problems that so exercise the minister's mind?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we have been led to believe that the hon. member was being brought back in a hurry because he had some information he wished to transmit. Would the minister let us in on the secret so we will be able to understand some of the actions suggested by the hon. member in consequence of his momentous tour?

Mr. Speaker: Order. What the right hon. gentleman is asking for now is a statement to be made on motions.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I just reply—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martin (Essex East):—to the question, because I think my right hon. friend—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Mather.]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

SMOKING—REPORTED C.B.C. STATEMENT BY STANLEY BURKE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack Roxburgh (Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister of state. Has it been drawn to the minister's attention, by way of protest or otherwise, that last week Stanley Burke made a most insinuating and non-factual statement on a C.B.C. national newscast to the effect that the average Canadian smokes 14 cigarettes a day and that 32 die from respiratory diseases? I should like to ask the minister whether she is in favour of such a statement being made on a national news broadcast.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member would welcome an opportunity to take this matter up on the adjournment debate.

Mr. Roxburgh: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. Having in mind his admirable statement yesterday in connection with submitting the details of the Carter commission report for public discussion and debate with the provinces, would the minister use his very best brand of eloquence on the Prime Minister to persuade him to adopt the same course with regard to constitutional changes?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I need give the Prime Minister of Canada any advice whatever. He makes the most admirable decisions for the benefit of Canada.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CRITERIA FOR DISTRIBUTION OF COLOUR TELEVISION SETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the genial Secretary of State, with no citation for contempt. In view of the fact that perhaps only two or three technically trained people in the