

**An hon. Member:** It was your side.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I ask the Prime Minister whether he will treat this matter seriously because, after all, while representation by population has its place, regionalism has always been accepted in redistribution of seats from the earliest days.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps we should not engage in a debate. It is perhaps more a matter of statements than questions in which we are getting involved now. I suggest we should limit ourselves to questions and answers at this moment, and for that purpose I will recognize the hon. member for York South.

REDISTRIBUTION OF RIDINGS—REQUEST FOR SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY ALTERNATIVES TO REDUCTIONS IN CERTAIN PROVINCES

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. In view of the fact that merely delaying the results of the present redistribution plan will not accomplish anything in respect of representation in this country as far as certain parts of Canada are concerned, and in view of the fact that discussions among the House leaders could not possibly cover all the various suggestions that might be made, will the Prime Minister give serious consideration to setting up a special committee to study various alternatives that he or his advisers might suggest, as well as those suggested by the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert and others, and perhaps come up with some suggestion that could be acceptable to all parties in the House as a final step, instead of merely delaying the application?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this idea of referring the matter to a committee is one with which we would agree. I merely hoped that a discussion between the House leaders might provide a quicker solution than the one suggested by the hon. gentleman. Certainly I will consider this and, if the member has no objection, I will ask our House leader to consult the other leaders to see whether they prefer the committee route, the route we suggested or the route suggested by the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert.

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• (1500)

TRADE

POSSIBLE SALE OF MINI-TYPE SUBMARINE TO RUSSIA

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It has to do with the arrangements for the sale of the Pisces. I am wondering whether or not his department has withdrawn its objections to the sale of this underwater craft to the Russians?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** If the hon. member is talking about a new order, the department has indicated to the manufacturers that we would be prepared to issue an export permit for

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the export of this vessel to the U.S.S.R. provided certain conditions are met.

**Mr. Forrestall:** As this is so very germane to good relations with the United States, I ask the government in all seriousness whether they are satisfied that no compromise of classified information, technological information, for example, is involved, and do we have the approval of the United States for such a sale?

**Mr. Basford:** Is the hon. member opposed to business for western Canada?

**Mr. Forrestall:** I am opposed to making a mess of our trading relations with the United States.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are getting involved in debate at this point.

[Later:]

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, may I take the opportunity of answering the second part of the question asked by the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East? The conditions to which I referred are those respecting the classified materials. We have received verbal undertakings, or verbal statements that there is no problem as far as materials are concerned, or with respect to black boxes and so forth, but we want to be sure of that before we issue the export permit.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

POSSIBLE EXCEEDING OF CEILING SET BY ACT—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the hon. gentleman inform the House whether the \$850 million ceiling provided under section 30 of the Export Development Act has been exceeded by the Export Development Corporation as of today and, if so, to what extent?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** It has not been exceeded to my knowledge. We shall have an opportunity of reviewing the outstanding loans and commitments of the Export Development Corporation very shortly, perhaps tomorrow on second reading of Bill C-3.

[Later:]

**Mr. Stevens:** I should like to ask the minister a supplementary. When the financing which has now been authorized by the board of directors of the Export Development Corporation in the form of offers outstanding is added to the outstanding liabilities under section 30 of the act, is the ceiling exceeded and, if so, to what extent?

**Mr. Gillespie:** That is the purpose of Bill C-3 which I hope the House will deal with expeditiously. The success of the Export Development Corporation has been very substantial, as I believe the hon. member will recognize. He has some knowledge of the banking industry. We have