

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SALE TO U.S. OF ARMS FOR USE IN VIET NAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the dreadful suffering of the people of Viet Nam will the government of Canada reconsider its policy of selling arms to the United States, some of which are used in that country?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): We do not intend to abrogate our defence sharing agreement with the United States.

URANIUM**INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SALE TO FRANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. During his recent extensive trade tour did he have an opportunity to discuss the sale of uranium to France?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker, I had no direct opportunity to talk with the French government during this visit. My purpose in being in Paris was to attend the O.E.C.D. meeting, which of course was attended by some of the ministers of France. I did on one occasion at lunch have an opportunity to discuss uranium in a general way, but there are no changes in the circumstances.

Mr. Hales: Were those discussions along any other lines than the use of uranium for peaceful purposes?

Mr. Winters: No, Mr. Speaker; those are still the rules of the game.

OLD AGE SECURITY**ADJUSTMENT OF INCOME SUPPLEMENT TO PROVIDE MINIMUM AMOUNT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister yet found a way to make provision for old age pensioners who are receiving the guaranteed income supplement, when their income drops during

[Mr. Pepin.]

the calendar year, to receive an immediate adjustment to restore their income to the minimum provided by the law as it now stands?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that this question has been asked two or three times, may I ask the minister whether he is working on this matter?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I do not think it will be possible to make any legislative changes in the law in the present session of parliament. We do have under consideration certain changes which may be necessary as a result of our experience in administering this large program, but we do not think we will have the opportunity to take the necessary steps in this session.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO PREPARATION OF DRAFT LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and ask him whether the draft of the revised Indian Act has yet been prepared and sent to the various band councils across the nation.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to present it first in the house and then take it to the Indian bands. The draft is just about completed, and I hope that early in the new year we might distribute it first here and then to the bands and other interested parties in Canada.

Mr. Howard: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any intention to delay the second reading of the bill for a reasonably long period of time until the various band councils and other interested people have an opportunity to express their views on the proposals?

Mr. Laing: I am somewhat fearful that the distribution of the act among the Indian bands and their consultation might take more than a reasonable amount of time.