

Inquiries of the Ministry

easily be placed on the order paper. If the hon. member thinks it is very urgent, it could be discussed on the adjournment debate.

Mr. Nielsen: Again, with the greatest respect, the urgency lies in the fact that no member dare use his telephone unless he gets this assurance from the Solicitor General.

Mr. McIlraith: There is the only man who did wiretapping around here.

Mr. Ricard: Put a charge yourself.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The Minister of Public Works just this moment uttered, loud enough for the *Hansard* reporter to hear, "There is the only man who wiretapped around here", and pointed to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. McIlraith: That is right.

Mr. Nielsen: That is conduct unbecoming a minister of the crown, and he should make a charge or keep quiet.

Mr. McIlraith: Yes, I will be very glad to explain the exact charge. The Leader of the Opposition, when he was prime minister of Canada, had this house tapped and the wiring extended to his own office—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. McIlraith: —to check proceedings that went on here. He admitted it himself and had the wiring removed when the matter was raised in the House of Commons by the hon. member for Kootenay West.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ricard: You are a real Grit.

Mr. Diefenbaker: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, let me make it very clear that when I was prime minister it was suggested that I might be able to follow the debates in the house while working in my office. Objection was taken to that and it was withdrawn.

Mr. McIlraith: That is right.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not the kind of wire tapping we are talking about.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Speaker, I wish to explain to the house that this complaint was made by Senator Argue.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Lambert: That is why he became a Senator.

[Mr. Speaker.]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ANTI-MISSILE BASES IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of frequent references in the press, may I ask the minister whether there have been any discussions at any level between officials of the government of the United States and the government of Canada regarding the possibility of constructing anti-missile bases in Canada?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I know of no such discussions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If any discussions are held and agreement reached, can we have the minister's assurance that this matter will be referred to parliament rather than having an agreement signed with which parliament is only acquainted after the event?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It appears to me that the question is hypothetical.

[Translation]

NATIONAL CENSUS

QUEBEC—INQUIRY INTO APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister.

Can he tell us whether he proposes to call for an inquiry into the serious irregularities committed in connection with the appointment of commissioners for the 1966 national census which resulted in shameful patronage in the province of Quebec?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think the question as put by the hon. member is acceptable or in order; as a matter of fact, it is more in the way of a statement and should not be put in such a way. This question, in the way the hon. member put it, cannot be accepted. It is accompanied by a statement and no question should be put that way.

Mr. Grégoire: I feel so indignant that I add things which should not be added under the rules.