

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL DEFENCE**

SUCCESSOR TO GENERAL ALLARD

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My question is for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In the light of widespread reports in connection with the imminent retirement of the Chief of the General Staff, can the right hon. gentleman advise the house whether the government is now considering the question of a successor to this most eminent Canadian soldier?

Mr. Speaker: I have some doubts whether this question has attached to it the type of urgency which would justify its being asked at this time.

Mr. Forrestall: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker. I submit that the degree of trust and confidence which has to be placed and maintained in whoever is appointed to the office of Chief of the General Staff is such as to warrant at least an indication from the Prime Minister whether or not General Allard's retirement is imminent, or whether rumours to this effect are false.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Surrey.

Mr. Forrestall: There are still 90,000 people in the forces. Why doesn't the government tell them what is going on?

An hon. Member: Shut up.

NATIONAL CAPITALHULL—COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER INCLUSION
IN CAPITAL AREA

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): May I address a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion in his capacity as the Minister reporting on national capital questions? I wish to ask him this: Having in mind the reported major developments in the Hull region of the national capital area—developments with which I personally very much agree—will the minister tell us if and when the legislation approved by the last parliament for the setting up of a parliamentary committee to deal with national capital matters will be implemented?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as soon as our general policy with regard to the National Capital is known, I shall be happy to convene the parliamentary committee so that it may be discussed.

[Mr. Thomas (Moncton).]

[*English*]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

AID TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is directed to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise whether his departmental officials have been conducting discussions with their opposite numbers at the provincial level with regard to the provision of a uniform system of aid to victims of crime, as well as to those who are called upon to aid police power and who are injured as a result of their actions in response to such calls?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): We have not been in active discussion with the provinces on this subject, but in the light of the hon. member's question I think it would be useful if at the next meeting of the uniformity commissioners we were to take this up with the provincial attorneys general.

COMBINESHOCKEY—ACTION TO ABOLISH RESERVE
CLAUSE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): May I direct a question to the minister of health, Mr. Speaker? It has to do with the recommendation of the commission on sports to the effect that reserve terms in National Hockey League professional agreements should be outlawed, and the hon. gentleman's statement that he was considering bringing in legislation to this effect. Would the minister say, having regard to the statement by the president of the National Hockey League that parliament has no jurisdiction to do this, whether any opinion has been secured from the law officers of the Crown and, if so, what is the nature and the purport of the advice he has received?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I would answer the right hon. gentleman by referring him to the reply my colleague the minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs gave in the house yesterday to the effect that, despite Mr. Campbell's opinion, my colleague is looking into this matter.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was not here yesterday, but I saw that answer. My question is: Has the matter been submitted to the law officers of the Crown?