

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

## REQUEST FOR TABLING OF ORIGINAL EVIDENCE BY ADMIRAL LANDYMORE

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the allegations placed before the house by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona regarding certain excisions, alterations and substitutions in respect of the evidence which Admiral Landymore was to present, which took place while it was in the possession of the minister's office, will he now table the evidence that Admiral Landymore intended to give which was placed before the minister, and the final evidence which the committee had before it following the deletion of certain pages and the substitution of innocuous ones?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I take the liberty to bring to the attention of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition that there is a motion for production of these papers which appears on today's order paper.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, may I say with great respect that this cannot interfere with the right to ask a question. Surely this house will not be denied the opportunity of learning whether this minister or anyone connected with him induced an admiral to alter his evidence.

[Later:]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that there will be a shortage of 1,500 men required to man the remaining ships of the Canadian navy if all the older destroyers and frigates are disposed of, why did the minister refuse to let Admiral Landymore give that evidence to the committee on defence?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, there are too many allegations in that question for it to be dealt with on orders of the day, but if the hon. gentleman would check some of the information I gave at a press conference very shortly after—

**Mr. Horner:** Can we believe the hon. member's information?

**Mr. Hellyer:**—he would be more up to date than he is.

[Mr. Peters.]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** What information did the admiral give?

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** What did you tell the women's association on Saturday?

**Mr. Churchill:** The statement I read was from Admiral Landymore's testimony which the minister refused to let appear before the committee. I ask the minister whether he is now stating in the house that the submission Admiral Landymore intended to give to that committee was wrong.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I do not so contend, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact the situation is difficult, just how difficult will be determined in the intervening months. However, I personally stated at the press conference to which I referred earlier that there was a shortage of 1,500 personnel. The admiral, in his evidence to the committee, stated there was a desperate shortage but that how many ships will be manned next year will depend on what will happen in the intervening months. On my trip to Halifax recently I was assured by the commander that every effort would be made to find from the available manpower pools people to man the ships next year, and we are hopeful we can man them all. I am not saying we will be able to, but we will be making every effort to do so next year.

**Mr. Lambert:** Does the minister agree this is desirable?

**Mr. Churchill:** I have another supplementary, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister the following question: Is it not right that by May 1967 we will be able to man only 13 or 14 of the total of 23 destroyers and have those 13 or 14 in full commission?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is the wrong time for a question of that kind, but I certainly think that forecast will prove to be very pessimistic.

**Mr. Churchill:** Why did the minister not permit that information to go before the committee on defence?

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Why did he delete it?

**Mr. Terence Nugent (Edmonton-Strathcona):** On a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker; in view of the fact that the Minister of National Defence just admitted that Admiral Landymore said the shortage of manpower was desperate, would the minister care to explain to the house why he was so