

Would it be horizontally, straight up from Canadian territory—I mean vertically?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question concerning the North American defence system. I would like to ask him whether Canada is committed or has agreed to allow the American government to use the Canadian bases located in the Canadian Far North, in order to establish an emergency airborne system? Did the government pledge itself to supply those bases or to allow the United States to use such bases on our territory?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I shall have to look into the matter. I might ask the Minister of National Defence to answer some day.

[*English*]

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Following the cabinet meeting announced for this weekend, will the government's position on this subject and on the other matters of defence be announced whilst the house is sitting, or will this be done during the adjournment period when the house will not be able to comment on such a decision?

**Mr. Trudeau:** That depends, I suppose, on the agreement which will be reached among the leaders of the various parties as to when the house will adjourn. But it is obvious that if the announcement can be made while parliament is still sitting, we will do it. If not, if it has to be announced during the Easter recess, the house will certainly be given an opportunity to discuss this whole matter at a later date.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. A week ago the Prime Minister told the house that he did not have sufficient information, or the government did not have sufficient information to reach a decision whether to approve or disapprove the position of the United States on the A.B.M. program. Since his visit to Washington, has the Prime Minister acquired sufficient information to make up his mind on this vital issue?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, we do have more facts in our possession. It will make any deliberations we have in cabinet more

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

informed. I have more information; cabinet will have more information. I repeat, however, that we are not yet in a position to announce the policy which will flow from this recent acquisition of information.

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the apparent difference of viewpoint between the Prime Minister and the United States Secretary of Defence, has the Prime Minister made any inquiries as to whether any of our senior, or junior for that matter, diplomatic or military people in Washington have given any assurances to senior United States officials which will lead to a settlement of this difference of viewpoint?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, I have not, Mr. Speaker. But I believe I could repeat what the Acting Prime Minister said on Monday, I think it was, when he said that if there is any difference it is more a matter of semantics than of substance. We have repeated constantly the same position. Secretary of Defence Laird, I believe, stated publicly on television a position which was compatible or in conformity with ours, in which he explained in greater detail what he meant when he had talked about agreement with Canada in his testimony before the senate committee. He was referring, as I understand it, to this ongoing arrangement of continental defence whereby the United States does give Canada information. He was not referring to any agreement under which we might have said: O.K., you can proceed with the Sentinel system.

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question for the Prime Minister is this: Why should the cabinet hold any deliberations on the A.B.M. system, if it becomes operational, when the Prime Minister's answer to the hon. member for Calgary Centre a few moments ago indicated that under no conditions would Canadian air space be involved?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Because we believe that the Canadian government should have a policy with regard not only to its own interests but the interests of humanity at large.

**Mr. MacInnis:** A further supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Since this question involves Canada's policy, will the Prime Minister give to the Canadian people that to which he says they are entitled, and announce that policy, which is what everybody is asking for?