

Inquiries of the Ministry

understand the position of the hon. member for Yukon, as I have said, and the fact that no motion has been made. I think perhaps the hon. member would wish to guide himself in the light of whatever decision or comments are made by the Chair as a result of the question raised by the hon. member for Yukon.

Mr. Nielsen: I shall certainly do that, Mr. Speaker, but I do not believe the matter can be allowed to rest on the record with the perhaps unintentional distortions made by the house leader.

Mr. McIlraith: Distortions?

Mr. Nielsen: There is no remedy as the house leader suggests. The prohibition contained in section—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I suggest to the hon. member that this is the task of the Chair, namely to find out what remedies there are, if there are remedies. This is why I assume the hon. member is placing the matter in the hands of the Chair to study the matter and study the statute. I have already had an opportunity to give some thought to the question since the hon. member left the notice in my hands, and I really do not think there will be any great difficulty in studying the matter and giving a decision to the satisfaction of the house.

Mr. Nielsen: That really is not the point, with deference to Your Honour. The government house leader has been allowed to place on the record one side of the story—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will have an opportunity later to place before the house any other considerations. It seems to me that the hon. member has submitted representations, has raised a question of privilege, and it will be for the Chair to rule in due course whether there is a question of privilege, and if there is to allow the hon. member to make a motion if he wants to do so.

The hon. member disagrees with the facts, or the allegations if he prefers, advanced by the minister, and he can rely on the Chair to take everything into account in considering the matter.

Mr. Nielsen: The point remains, Mr. Speaker, that the house leader has got these matters on the record—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I still wish to place on the record the other side of the

story, which in all fairness I believe the house should hear because it affects the privileges of all hon. members.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think what the hon. member wants to do now is begin a debate on the matter. The question has been put before the Chair. The hon. member will realize that if he is allowed to speak a second time on the question of privilege this will definitely open a debate and other members will want to speak once, twice or even more. To my mind the matter is not complicated; it is a very easy matter for the Chair to study. I therefore ask the co-operation of the hon. member for Yukon to allow the Chair an opportunity to study the matter, consider it objectively and in due course render an opinion which I hope will be satisfactory.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—POSSIBLE MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL TRUCE COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to ask whether the press report is correct to the effect that India informed Canada that it had no interest in having a meeting of the Geneva truce committee convened unless Poland would signify interest in it in advance; furthermore, that in so far as Poland is concerned, the attitude has been negative.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not had any intimation to this effect from anyone speaking on behalf of the government of India. I am sure the commission can only act, in accordance with the Canadian proposition, on the basis of an agreement among all three member states.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Has there been that agreement?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I have had discussions with representatives of both governments and we are now waiting for their replies.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the minister say there is no foundation for the press report to the effect that India stated that without the acceptance of such a meeting to Poland on Poland's terms, India would not join with Canada?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I have not seen the press report, Mr. Speaker. I have had no