

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: I am putting a supplementary question.

Mr. Pearson: I have read it; I have it with me.

Mr. Hees: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister intimated that I used incorrect figures. I wish to indicate to him that I have used the correct figures. In a government release which was available to all members of parliament—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member is now entering into an argument.

Mr. Hees: This is a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I intend to show the Prime Minister that I used the correct figures. On page 2 of the release which was made available to members of parliament today the number of unemployed is listed as follows: on November 11, 1967, 289,000; on October 14, 1967, 254,000—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member is well aware that a dispute over facts does not comprise a question of privilege.

Mr. Hees: Finally, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: —on November 12, 1966 the figure was 238,000.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would ask the hon. member for Northumberland to put his question.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my question is this. Does the right hon. Prime Minister not realize that, using the figures produced by the government today, the percentage increases in unemployment are exactly as I specified to him? I therefore ask what the government is going to do about meeting these conditions.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, on the question of privilege—I gather that is what my hon. friend is speaking to—I should like to quote from the joint report of the manpower department and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics issued today. The report indicates that the increase in unemployment is relatively small, and that the November figure of unemployed represented 3.8 per cent of the labour force as compared with 3.3 per cent in October and 3.1 per cent a year ago. The report added that the non-farm employment rose by 40,000 between October and November, which it called an above average increase.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Prime Minister to continue reading the report, for if he does so he will see the figures I mentioned a few moments ago. These figures show the increases in unemployment as I have outlined them. I want to know what the government is going to do about the seriously growing unemployment situation in this country, and I should like an answer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NORAD—POLICY CHANGES IN PROPOSED RENEWAL OF TREATY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask the minister whether it is correct that the cabinet has decided to sign a further five year treaty in regard to Canada's participation in NORAD. If so, is the minister prepared to advise the house whether there are any policy changes in the contemplated new agreement in view of the decision of the United States to establish anti-missile stations along the Canadian border within 150 miles of major Canadian cities?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been a preliminary meeting with the United States over this matter, but it would be inaccurate to say negotiations are really under way. Until such time as we have a clearer picture there is nothing I can say to my hon. friend's question.

Mr. Winch: A supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would the minister tell this house whether information is correct to the effect that the government of Canada has reached a decision to step out of NATO and NORAD and is contemplating signing an agreement to that effect?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I cannot add to what I have already said. There has been a preliminary meeting and discussion with the United States about NORAD. A great deal would depend on our discussions and negotiations before I could give any final response to my hon. friend's question.