

Viet Nam

That the amendment be further amended by adding to the amendment after the words "continuing participation" the following words "or withdrawal".

The amendment would now read:

"and stipulates that a decision by government of Canada concerning continuing participation or withdrawal and the conditions for such participation in the said international commission beyond the initial period of 60 days shall not be effected unless and until it is affirmed by a resolution of this House."

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that it is five o'clock. Normally we would proceed with private members' business unless arrangements have been made otherwise.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is agreed to dispense with the private members' hour today in order to give more time for this particular debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

[Translation]

Before recognizing the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) I must inform the House of the questions to be raised tonight.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds)—Airports—Vancouver International—Proposed runway—Date of completion of expropriation hearings; the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez)—Manpower—Local initiatives program—Request for additional funds; the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte)—Social security—Old age security pension—Possibility of lowering eligibility age to 60.

[Mr. Lewis.]

• (1700)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT—PARTICIPATION BY CANADA IN SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp:

This House welcomes the conclusion of the agreements on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam and notes the provision for an International Commission of Control and Supervision as part of the cease-fire arrangements, in which Canada has agreed to participate for the initial period of 60 days as provided for in the note, dated January 27, 1973, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the four parties to the Viet Nam cease-fire.

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, it is rather difficult to examine all side-issues of the matter now under consideration, when we can only note that we are asked our opinion after the decisions have been taken.

I feel that such a procedure should never be followed. Moreover, there is a precedent in this connection which only goes back to 1964 when the House decided to send a Canadian expeditionary force to Cyprus. We are now wondering why for our active participation to a Viet Nam cease-fire such a procedure was not followed.

It could be objected that there was some urgency and very quick action was necessary, but I will answer that there can be nothing more urgent than the upholding of democracy. Consequently, an example of active and speedy participatory democracy could well have been given if just the same parliament had been asked to vote on the matter. Even now, as a result of current events in Viet Nam, we must ask ourselves to what extent that decision was wise.

Mr. Speaker, we understand that no effort must be spared to bring peace to that part of the world. We are all concerned about the painful situation that has existed in Viet Nam for years, as it is, of course, the duty of our country to be concerned about peace in that area of the world. But this must not make us overlook the fact that some actions are more or less indicated.

A while ago I heard the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) say that his party is the only one that has clamored for years against the war in Viet Nam.

Mr. Speaker, I must set the facts straight. If any party can brag about having opposed the war, any war, ours can. The leader of the Social Credit party of Canada (Mr. Caouette) has often been chided for too often making comparisons with the war of 1939-45 with regard to issuing credits.

Not only is our party against war, it also tries to make the leaders of our country, and those throughout the world, understand that there exists one excellent means of avoiding them: accepting for peaceful ends the credits that are accepted to wage war. I could give the example of the billions of dollars that the United States spent to make war. If the same amounts were spent on peace and if people decided once and for all to adopt a positive rather than a negative attitude and if all economic and material