

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not yet have answers available to the first two questions. In respect of the third question, I understand there will be a question on the order paper in relation to this matter and it will be answered in the normal course.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Yesterday the hon. gentleman gave an answer that was in contempt of parliament, and now he is trying to shift and say he will not answer the question now but will wait until it is on the order paper. Yesterday I asked him this question:

Would the minister table a list tomorrow of the areas that have been designated as sensitive and would he at the same time give us a list of those areas that were considered sensitive but which have now become—

It says "anomalous" in *Hansard* but I used the minister's own word and it should be "anomalies". The house has a right to this information, and I rise to urge most strongly that no minister has a right to answer in this way and thus postpone giving an answer to a question that must be answered now and with respect to which we cannot wait for the answer in view of the fact that the government has acted so improperly in so many ways.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, unlike the right hon. gentleman I take this matter seriously, because I think it is serious.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hellyer: I do not think it would be in the public interest to spell out those areas which are considered sensitive, and I have no intention of doing so.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I cannot challenge the minister when he says it is not in the public interest, although I believe it is the political interest of the government he is thinking about. I ask this question. What happened in Windsor? Can he answer that? Did Paul tell Paul what should be done?

[*Later:*]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is he now in a position to answer my question of yesterday, in which I inquired under what authority a sub-lieutenant of the Royal Canadian Navy ordered a reporter and photographer of the Thompson press that pictures taken in Woodstock, Ontario, during the removal of rifles from the local sea cadet unit could not be published until a later date? At the same time I would like to express my thanks to the minister for having the ammunition returned

[*Mr. Diefenbaker:*]

to the Woodstock collegiate this morning, the ammunition which was removed earlier this week.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, there was no order sent out from headquarters or, so far as I know, from any regional unit, but I would be glad if my hon. friend would give complete details of this to me so I could look into it.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Have any arrests been made or informations laid with respect to the break-ins at the various armouries in Quebec?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is that for the moment I am not aware that there have been any.

Mr. Nielsen: Then I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence, and I ask him whether any arrests have been made or charges laid under the National Defence Act in regard to service personnel, in connection with these break-ins?

Mr. Hellyer: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

POLICY RESPECTING CONTINUATION OF NAVAL RESERVE UNITS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday the Associate Minister of National Defence indicated that he might have a statement today with respect to certain naval stations, and I wonder whether the minister is in a position to make any comment about that matter at this time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Danforth.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I have directed my question to the Minister of National Defence in the absence of the associate minister. Is the minister in a position to make any statement about this matter?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the decision which has been taken is that the two divisions on the coasts, H.M.C.S. *Malahat* and H.M.C.S. *Scotian*, will be kept in operation. The two air squadrons and H.M.C.S. *Chatham* will be disbanded, and the other four divisions will be considered in two or three months' time when the Suttie report is at hand and the matter can be considered in the light of that report.