

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

agenda at the next federal-provincial conference in Ottawa.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the government of Canada allow the provinces to enter the vacuum created by its inaction in this regard?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The answer obviously is yes.

**WOMEN****REQUEST FOR STUDY OF STATUS BY ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister a question with respect to the brief submitted to the government by the committee for the equality of women in Canada. This appears to be a well reasoned document dealing with matters of equality for women with respect to remuneration, access to occupations and various professions, and equality of treatment before the law with respect to domicile and property.

On January 10 the Prime Minister said this question had been considered in cabinet but it would be considered again on the return of the Secretary of State. Has the government had an opportunity to discuss this matter? Will the Prime Minister be able to tell the house fairly soon whether a decision has been reached with respect to the recommendation of this committee that a royal commission be established to look into the status of women in Canada?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, a certain decision has been made with regard to this matter. I or the Secretary of State hope to be in a position to announce it within a day or two.

**NATIONAL SECURITY****CALVIN MACDONALD—APPEARANCE BEFORE ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic):** I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General but in his absence may I direct it to the Prime Minister. This question relates to one asked by the hon. member for Villeneuve in March of 1966, and concerns one Calvin Macdonald and his desire to appear before the commission of inquiry on national security. Has the government given or will the

[Mr. Pearson.]

government give him the privilege of appearing before that commission, that he may explain his case?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall discuss this matter with the Solicitor General as soon he comes into the house.

**INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce):** Mr. Speaker, I have an important question that I think should be addressed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I may say to him that I have noticed in a recent press report that two United States businessmen, one from Detroit and one from Chicago, have opened a business in Montreal at a cost of \$5 million.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Winkler:** Mr. Speaker, my question is this. Inasmuch as this means \$5 million of United States capital in Canada for the opening of a Bunny club, will the Minister of Trade and Commerce refer this matter to the Minister without Portfolio for investigation?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has let the bunny out of the bag, and the question is out of order.

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

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****NORTH VIET NAM—SUPPLYING OF MISSILES BY SOVIET UNION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is he now in a position to reply to the question I asked yesterday about the supplying of arms by the Soviet union to North Viet Nam?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Oxford, I think it is clear that there have been violations by all sides of the 1954 agreement on Viet Nam. The presence in North Viet Nam of Soviet missiles and other modern anti-aircraft weapons represents as much a departure from the state of affairs envisaged by the agreement as other forms of military activity in Viet Nam to which attention is more frequently drawn.