

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, January 17, 1961

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

DEFENCE PRODUCTION

CANADA-U.S.—INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED
AIRPLANE EXCHANGE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister in a position to report on the plane swap deal with the United States government?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, I have no information to give the house in that regard at the present time.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. Would the minister confirm that the rejection of the deal at this stage is United States economic retaliation—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hellyer: —for the procrastination, in-decision and lack of co-operation on the part of the government of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not know how much of the hon. member's assertion in the guise of a supplementary question is on the record, but it was an improper use of the question period.

Mr. Harkness: I think in view of the assertions made by the hon. member I should make it clear that he is apparently proceeding on assumptions which in my opinion have no foundation whatsoever.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: I hear hon. members shouting "order". There was a supplementary question which I considered to be out of order, and in the circumstances I suppose an answer would be equally out of order.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour and ask whether he has given any consideration to the number of jobs that will be lost to Canada by reason of the loss of this order.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any order such as that to which the hon. member refers.

TRADE

JAPAN—INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF
CONTROL AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Would the minister care to comment on a press report from Tokyo that Japan might have to apply its own system of control over exports to Canada because of difficulties in negotiating a bilateral control agreement with the Canadian government? In view of the great importance of the Japanese market for many Canadian commodities, could the minister say whether a successful agreement may be arrived at an early date?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are proceeding with representatives of the Japanese government in Ottawa with a view to arriving at acceptable quotas on exports of certain commodities from Japan to Canada for the year 1961. So far as this report from Tokyo is concerned, all I can say is that it is quite at variance with the statements that have been made to us by the representatives of the Japanese government here in Canada.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO REPLACEMENT OF
INTERCEPTOR SQUADRONS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister say if he plans to replace the CF-100 interceptor squadrons, or is Canada withdrawing from the interceptor role?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, any answer to this question, as the hon. member well knows, would be a policy statement in regard to the air defence of our country. The hon. gentleman knows that this is not the stage in our proceedings at which such statements are made.

Mr. Hellyer: The lack of an answer is also a policy statement.

Mr. Starr: What does the hon. gentleman know about airplanes?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, the statements and assumptions the hon. member for Trinity