

Inquiries of the Ministry

or improve the business of this house, if we were to begin a miniature debate now on the orders of the day.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask the Minister of Finance a question? Has he seen the report of his speech in the *Montreal Gazette* and does he say it is an inaccurate report, especially as contained in the first paragraph?

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance): I have not seen it.

Mr. Speaker: The question seemed to be directed to the wrong minister but I think it would be to the same end, the danger of which I have pointed out. It would merely encourage a debate on orders of the day. We are now in a full-fledged debate. If there are matters to which the hon. member wishes to advert, no doubt he will be addressing the house in the near future and I think that would be the time.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My question should have been addressed to the Minister of Justice and I suggest, with great respect, if Your Honour would listen to me—

Mr. Speaker: I think we will draw this matter to a conclusion.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister in order to clear up some confusion which exists among members as a result of some exchanges across the floor yesterday. If we want to ask questions about finance with respect to the former parliament, do we now ask the Minister of Finance the questions or the Minister of Justice?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REFERENCE TO ARTICLES IN TORONTO "GLOBE AND MAIL"

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. Has the minister authorized the articles on defence by the chief of the staff secretariat, Department of National Defence, now appearing in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the articles referred to are by a Dr. Sutherland, who is actually an employee of the defence research board and was incorrectly reported as being the chief of the secretariat of the chiefs of staff committee. I believe it was something along that line.

These articles which are appearing in the *Globe and Mail* are summaries of a long

[Mr. Speaker.]

article written by Dr. Sutherland for, I think, the foreign affairs society's quarterly, or something along that line.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. How does the minister justify the policy of having departmental employees write articles of this nature when he does not give the department authority to prepare a white paper for consideration by the people's elected representatives?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Again I draw to the attention of the hon. member for Trinity the true nature of supplementary questions.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS—INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. A. Brewin (Greenwood): May I address a question to the Prime Minister. Does the answer which he gave to a question on March 5 last, that there was then no intention of entering into discussions, referred to by the United States secretary of state, for the joint control of nuclear weapons for Canadian armed forces still stand, or have there been any such discussions to date?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think at the appropriate time the whole question regarding nuclear weapons, and the discussions concerned in connection therewith can be taken up. It is impossible to answer a question such as that on orders of the day.

BOMARC BASES—INQUIRY AS TO OPERATIONAL DATE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. M. Drury (St. Antoine-Westmount): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. The government has recently announced completion of the construction of the Bomarc bases north of here. Would the minister say when these bases, on which construction is now completed, will become operational?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): The base at La Macaza, as a matter of fact, will be taken over by the R.C.A.F. some time later this month. Some time after it has been taken over it will then be in the same state of operational readiness as the station at North Bay.

Mr. Drury: I have a supplementary question. The minister stated that the base at La Macaza will be in the same state of operational readiness as that at North Bay. Does "operational readiness," the term used by the minister, mean that these bases will be in a position to fight?