

Inquiries of the Ministry

Could the minister assure the house that Canadian soldiers stationed in Cyprus will be paid in Canadian money and not in U.S. money?

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): According to the department's policy, our forces are paid in the currency mostly used in the country where they are serving.

Mr. Pigeon: In what currency will the Canadian forces be paid?

Mr. Dupuis: In Diefendollars.

Mr. Pigeon: The dollar devaluation was an excellent thing for the Canadian economy.

In what currency are they being paid?

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister going to reply, or is he taking the question as notice?

[Translation]

Mr. Cardin: Up to now, Canadian troops have been paid in United States currency, but they will draw their pay in Cyprus' currency as soon as possible.

[Text]

ARMOURY GUARDS—REQUEST FOR VETERANS
PREFERENCE IN APPOINTMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of National Defence the other day whether he would give the house information on the status of the guards who had been hired in the armouries. I wonder whether he has the information now.

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not received it as yet.

TRANSPORT

HEARING ON ABANDONMENT OF CANADA
SOUTHERN LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent, Ont.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister indicate whether today a time and place has been named for the hearing by the board of transport commissioners in regard to the contemplated abandonment of the Canadian division of the New York Central Railway known as the Canada Southern Railway Company?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): No, sir.

[Mr. Pigeon.]

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Batten in the chair.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. House again in committee of supply, estimates of the Department of External Affairs, vote No. 1e.

Mr. Churchill: No, we are still on agriculture, the big item.

Mr. Jorgenson: Mr. Chairman, when the house adjourned last night I believe we were on the estimates of the Department of Agriculture, vote 172e. Since there are only four items left I wonder whether we can complete them before we go on to the other departments.

Mr. Favreau: If I failed to tell any of the hon. gentlemen opposite that the government intended to proceed with the estimates of the Department of External Affairs first, then that is my error and I beg to be excused therefor. But if we cannot proceed with them today we will have to proceed with them tomorrow, because I understand the minister may not be available tonight.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I think most of us were of the opinion that we were going to continue with agriculture. Personally I have no objection; it was just the way in which the Chair was calling the items.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, may I just explain so the committee will not be under the impression that the leader of the house is not taking hon. members into his confidence. I had asked, because I cannot be here tonight and perhaps for part of this afternoon too, that we might take my supplementary estimates first. My request was based on the possibility that we might not be here tomorrow, but as that is apparently not the situation, we can proceed with them later. But I did want to explain so that the committee would not think the house leader was not acting in the best of good faith.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall vote 1e carry?

Mr. Churchill: No, Mr. Chairman. This is not my understanding at all, unless I am completely—

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is quite right. I had just explained, Mr. Chairman, that as there is some disposition not to go ahead with external affairs today—although I had hoped we could—in view of the timetable I think we ought to proceed from where we finished last night.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

172e. Special—Estimated amount required to recoup the agricultural commodities stabilization