

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Louisburg restoration and the like has been carried out. In regard to the other recommendations, the government is continuing to give serious study to the problems of the coal industry. We have, of course, provided subventions at a higher rate than ever before and everything that can be done for the coal industry will be done.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**SAC—REPORTED BOMB-CARRYING FLIGHTS
OVER CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. J. Godin (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence based on an article by Knowlton Nash in the current issue of the *Star Weekly* magazine which states that "every day SAC bombers loaded with hydrogen bombs fly over Canada". Is it a fact that bombers loaded with hydrogen bombs do fly over Canada? If so, what Canadian clearance, if any, is required in connection with such flights?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): There has been no change in the situation which has prevailed, I think, since as far back as 1956. The matter has been dealt with here in the house on several occasions. The Prime Minister himself has more than once outlined what the situation is. For instance, on June 3, 1958 he dealt in detail with the subject raised by this question.

Essentially the position is that certain United States bombers fly over Canada at different times on routine flights. Each flight is individually cleared, and whatever weapons the planes may carry are inactivated, so there is no possibility of accident.

FINANCE**POSSIBLE INCREASE IN TAXES TO MEET
BUDGET DEFICIT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. H. McMillan (Welland): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Since it would take about a 70 per cent increase in personal income tax or a 100 per cent increase in corporation income tax to meet next year's anticipated deficit, will the minister let the people know before the dissolution of parliament by how much our taxes will be increased?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the minister may not be ready to introduce his budget today.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**WEST GERMANY—LOSS OF LIFE IN MINE
ACCIDENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. C. Coates (Cumberland): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister comment on the terrible mining tragedy that occurred in the Saar basin in West Germany, which has taken an untold number of lives and resulted in a degree of human suffering almost beyond our comprehension?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): When a similar tragedy struck Springhill a couple of years ago, nations all over the world offered their sympathy. There is a common bond among those who have coal miners in their countries, a recognition of the courage with which they daily walk in the face of peril in the discharge of their work. They and their families meet that peril with resolution and courage. What has happened in West Germany is another of those disasters which from time to time remind us of how much we owe to these men.

On behalf of the people and the government of Canada I have sent a message of sympathy to Chancellor Adenauer, together with an expression of hope that those who have suffered injury may be restored to health.

HOUSING**N.H.A.—REQUEST FOR FINANCING OF EXISTING
HOMES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Garland (Nipissing): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. Is he aware of the statement made last week by the newly elected president of the National House Builders Association, William McCance, that the extension of financing under the National Housing Act to older or existing houses—"would do more for the Canadian economy than any other single thing I can think of".

Is the government now prepared to reconsider this matter?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): The hon. member keeps repeating this question in different forms and in different guises. I may say that I always read what the president of this important association has to say in connection with housing. I continue to assure the hon. member that the matters he raises from time to time in different forms have had the attention of our department and of myself and that when any announcement can or may be made it will be made, regardless of whether or not the hon. member keeps on reminding us.