

Order Paper Questions

I want to reserve the right to raise this as a question of privilege subsequently after I have had a chance to consult with my colleagues. May I say in passing that this is not yet the Bundestag of the Third Reich.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I do not want to deal with the substance of what my hon. colleague has said, but once again a member of Parliament is trying to use a point of order to score political points because he was not satisfied with an answer which was given to him, in this case by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). I think this is an abuse of the rules and that members should avoid trying to score political points when they are not happy with the answers to their questions.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. We are entering into debate. I would like to take the notice of the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) that he is reserving the right to raise a question of privilege at a time which he finds suitable.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

Madam Speaker: Presenting reports from standing or special committees.

Tabling of documents.

Statements by ministers.

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, on a point of order, I was contemplating rising when you called tabling of documents, and I apologize for delaying to this point, to inquire of the government House leader whether he will speak to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) to determine if the agreement reached between the PSAC and the Government of Canada might be tabled in the House?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, I shall be very pleased to speak with the President of the Treasury Board.

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[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Ron Irwin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 125, 850, 957, 1,028, 1,030 and 1,316.

I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

ARMED FORCES—COMMITMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Question No. 125—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Is Canada obliged, under any treaties or agreements in force with any other country or countries, to provide armed forces under certain conditions should such conditions arise and, if so, what is a detailed list of all such situations including the estimated number or required number of personnel that must be supplied?

2. Taking into account the existing number of personnel in the Canadian armed forces, would Canada be able to fulfil all such commitments, particularly if more than one arose at the same time and, if not, what plans does the government have to rectify the situation?

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): 1 and 2. Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that "the parties (to the treaty) agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the party or parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the north Atlantic area". In pursuit of the policy of contributing to the collective effort to maintain an adequate deterrent and defence posture for the alliance all Canada's armed forces are available for defence of the north Atlantic area. Of these the following Canadian forces are assigned to NATO command:

- (a) Canadian mechanized brigade group is assigned in wartime to the NATO central army group. The authorized peacetime strength is approximately 3,000 all ranks. In times of increased tension approximately 2,000 additional personnel would augment this brigade group.
- (b) 1 Canadian air group is assigned in wartime to the 4th allied tactical air force. Its total peacetime strength of approximately 900 personnel is augmented in times of international tension by over 100 additional personnel.
- (c) Canadian Air-Sea Transportable brigade group (CAST brigade group) is assigned to allied forces northern region. One infantry battalion of this group is held at a higher state of readiness for deployment by air to allied command Europe mobile force (land). After Sept. 1, 1980, the CAST brigade group will have a strength of about, 4,000 personnel.
- (d) One squadron of CF5 aircraft is assigned to ACE mobile force (air) on the northern flank and one squadron assigned to northern European command.
- (e) The maritime forces assigned to allied command Atlantic (SACLANT) consist of:
 - 15 Destroyers
 - 3 Submarines
 - 3 Squadrons ARGUS patrol aircraft
 - 2 Squadrons TRACKER reconnaissance aircraft
 - about 15 Sea King helicopters