

page 34 and to the observation on Canadian content as directed by the CRTC. I think the hon. gentleman misled the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek on a supplementary.

Mr. Nowlan: I am not satisfied, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate that the hon. member may not be satisfied but he has asked his question twice. There is a point of dispute, it seems, between him and the Acting Prime Minister, but that is hardly a point of order. For the moment the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek should be allowed to ask his supplementary.

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It seems the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek will have to wait a few moments yet while we hear the point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Stanfield: With all due respect, the Acting Prime Minister seemed at first to give the impression that he had not read the statement when he was asked whether part of it represented government policy. Now we have finally elicited from him that he has read it and members of the opposition are most anxious and believe it to be most important to ascertain whether it reflects government policy. I put this point to Your Honour as earnestly as I can.

Mr. Sharp: Perhaps I can attempt to answer the question. When the question was originally put to me, the hon. member asked whether the Prime Minister or myself had read the speech before it had been delivered and therefore, in effect, whether we had approved it in advance. The answer to that question was no. Neither of us had read it before it was delivered, or given specific approval to it. Now, I am asked to comment on certain aspects of the speech. In this instance the question is whether I agree with the minister in supporting what the CRTC proposes by way of Canadian content. The position is, obviously, that the CRTC has made some proposals; it may change those proposals and if it does so it is discharging its responsibility. The government is not coming down in favour of any of the specific recommendations which are now being presented. If I am asked whether I agree in general that there should

be a high proportion of Canadian content in our programs, then I agree with my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: In the light of that circuitous answer, I should like to ask whether the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was not expressing government policy when he stated, as reported on page 34 of his interesting speech, that the government is in favour of Canadian content in radio and television programs as directed by the CRTC?

Mr. Sharp: The CRTC is now in the process of putting forward some proposals for changes and until it decides what shall ultimately be done it will be very difficult for any minister to say he agrees. We must await the proposals of the CRTC.

Mr. Nowlan: A further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked a number of questions. Perhaps we might recognize the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek who has been very patient.

Mr. McIntosh: My question arises out of the answer the Acting Prime Minister gave to my first question and also his attitude to the questions put to him by my colleague. Has the government delegated to the CRTC the power to nationalize all broadcasting in Canada?

Mr. Sharp: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT—RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT ON BEHALF OF EGYPT

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Now that he has had discussions with the Foreign Secretary of Israel, could he tell the House whether he can confirm that Soviet personnel are manning anti-aircraft weapons in Egypt and, if so, would he consider making representations to the government of the U.S.S.R. concerning the dangers to world peace inherent in such a confrontation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I discussed this subject with the Foreign Secretary of Israel while he was here. He laid particular emphasis upon his government's concern about the level of Soviet military involvement in that area. On behalf of the