

WITHDRAWAL OF TAX EXEMPTIONS GRANTED
TO CHURCHES

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. In light of this further example that Canadian churches operate according to normal commercial practices, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether he intends to withdraw the tax exemptions which organized religions enjoy in his country?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP MEETING—CONCLUSIONS
REACHED ON CONTROL AND OPERATION
OF WEAPONS

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister give the House any information as to the conclusions reached by the group of ministers and chiefs of staff of a number of NATO countries who met here last week to study the control and operation of nuclear weapons within the NATO alliance?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member will recall, although when he himself was Minister of National Defence the Nuclear Planning Group did not exist, it has not been the practice for security reasons to indicate the specific conclusions arrived at. There was, however, a discussion at that meeting of the political criteria which should apply to any decisions by Governments concerning possible defensive use of nuclear weapons. There was a further refining of these criteria and, in particular, there was a consideration of atomic demolition munitions, the point being clearly made that their use would be preceded only by a political decision.

Mr. Harkness: Was any consensus arrived at as to a greater share in the control of the use of nuclear weapons by the alliance as a whole instead of having that control rest, as it does at the present time, almost entirely in the hands of United States?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, one of the purposes of the Nuclear Planning Group is to exercise broader political control over these weapons. The basic terms of the agreements remain unchanged. However, this particular group provides the basis upon which general political criteria governing their possible use can be worked out.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether there was a reaffirmation of the general principle that the seabed will not be used for the proliferation of nuclear instruments of any sort?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as to whether that particular question was discussed or not I do not think I can say, because of the generally accepted principle of not discussing individual items.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. During the meetings, was there any discussion concerning the use of the surplus CF-5 aircraft? If so, what decision was reached?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I might remind the hon. member that the name of the group is the Nuclear Planning Group, which of course would not deal with aircraft with conventional support capabilities such as the CF-5.

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GRAIN

SUBMISSION OF PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY TO
AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the second agricultural congress is scheduled to meet in Ottawa, later in November, and in view of the fact that the proposals for a grain production and receipts policy for the western grains industry in some ways conflict with and in some ways complement the proposals of the task force, is it the intention of the minister to put this policy before the congress at that time?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the congress is essentially within the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture. However, I understand that the proposals which I laid before the House several days ago are likely to come before the congress in one form or another. I will certainly welcome discussion of them on that occasion.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the wide implications of these proposals, is the minister prepared to refer them to the Standing Committee on Agriculture so that farm organizations and other interested parties can appear before the committee to discuss these proposals in advance of their implementation?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we will certainly welcome extremely wide discussion of these proposals. It is our hope that before very long they will be presented to this House in the form of legislation. At that time there will be an opportunity for detailed examination before the committee.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): My supplementary question is in connection with the timing of such legislation. Can the minister give a date when such legislation, based on the announcement made the other day, will be introduced in the House?

Mr. Lang: No, Mr. Speaker. We do not have a specific schedule in mind, although the matter is of some urgency if the proposals are to be in the form of concrete legislation and in effect for this crop year.