

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**STATUS OF DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM—ADDITIONAL COST**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can he say whether the destroyer construction program—I refer to the *St. Laurent* class—is on schedule and whether the companies involved have asked for any extras?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I regret to say that there has been a slippage of approximately one year in the timing of the program. An analysis is under way at the moment to determine to what extent this will affect the delivery dates and the availability of the ships for service. It will also indicate, since time is money, how much additional cost the treasury will be exposed to if the program is to go ahead in the form planned.

Mr. Bell: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister starts work in his new portfolio will he give every assurance, in view of rumours that the leakage of money may be upward of \$20 million, that he will not allow another *Bonaventure* fiasco to take place as did one of his colleagues sitting in the front row not far from him?

MANPOWER**SYDNEY, N.S.—SUSPENSION OF ADULT STUDENTS BY INSTRUCTOR FOR MAKING REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING ALLOWANCES**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration with reference to a wire forwarded to him from the Nova Scotia Minister of Labour protesting the suspension of 18 adult students by an instructor of adult training in Sydney, Nova Scotia, because they have made representations about training allowances which have been withheld. Would the minister have an investigation carried out to determine why these men and women have been suspended and immediately have them reinstated without any loss of benefit?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I appreciate the hon. member's interest and concern in this matter. I will certainly look into the matter and report to him as soon as I have any information.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Mr. Muir: Would the minister also provide both the House and Nova Scotia's Minister of Labour with an explanation as to why the students would have to apologize to anyone, indeed, as requested by the instructor before being reinstated?

Mr. Lang: After I have looked into the matter I will know whether or not that is appropriate.

Mr. Muir: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since when has it become necessary for the people of this country to apologize to bureaucrats for making justified representations and protests to elected representatives regarding an injustice?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but his supplementary question appears to be slightly argumentative.

POST OFFICE**TERMINATION OF LEGAL ROLE OF MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AS HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister concerning amendments to the Government Organization Act. Can he advise whether he contemplates lightening the load and brightening the way for the Minister without Portfolio from Longueuil by terminating the formal and legal role of the Minister of Communications as head of the Post Office Department?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is the Prime Minister waiting for applause again?

NATIONAL DEFENCE**POSSIBLE DEPLOYMENT OF ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILES IN CANADIAN NORTH—AWACS PROGRAM—DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Are any discussions being carried on between United States and Canadian authorities with regard to the possibility of deploying anti-ballistic missiles in the Canadian north? I imagine the minister has had a slippage and has forgotten he is Minister of National Defence.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I owe the hon. member an apology. I did not hear his question.