

Proposal for Time Allocation

not want to take the position he should take as the leader of this nation and tell the House of Commons what this government intends to do in respect of unification.

What are the government's plans? In the last 24 hours we have been told—and it is interesting to note that the newspapers are now reporting these things—that plans are being made against the eventuality that a peace keeping force will be sent to Viet Nam. Surely this is part of the propaganda program. In the last few days there has been debate on this question, and suddenly now there is a deliberate leak by a defence department source while parliament is in the throes of a debate on this subject. I have said, and the minister has denied this, that it is generally accepted that this government intends to produce a kind of faceless organization, once it gets these men into green jumpers, to be used as a special force for peace keeping. I think that is one of the pivotal reasons for this measure. This suggestion has already been turned down by the United Nations, yet the government proceeds with this idea. A government spokesman has said that plans have been drawn up to send a thousand man force to Viet Nam. I asked the Prime Minister to give us this information, not that minister who refuses to answer questions and substitutes abuse for arguments.

Has there been any discussion about this with the United Nations? Has there been any indication of such a request forthcoming, or is this just another of these publicity blurbs that regularly fill the wastepaper baskets of the press? What indication has there been of any acceptance by Hanoi of a cease fire and withdrawal, without which there can be no peace keeping? These are questions we want answered, yet they remain unanswered. What is the government's attitude in respect of renewal or rejection of NORAD? Surely if this house ever had a right to information, it has a right in this regard.

What is the government going to do with these green uniformed representatives in the armed forces of Canada? What is the government's policy in respect of NORAD? What is the attitude of the government regarding our commitments to NATO? I read the diaphanous explanation given by the minister. I can only say to him that in my experience no man is his equal, if that is his general manner of answering. He conceals so little thought in so many words.

What is the government's policy in respect of NATO? Is there any foundation for the

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

suggestion that the number of men will be reduced? We have a right to this information. This debate would have concluded long ago had we received answers to these questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh, yes. I am not speaking about the 22 Liberal members, if that is the number, who have spoken. They would have spoken in any event. I am speaking about Her Majesty's opposition. We have no right to let this government sell Canada a pig in a poke, and that is what is being done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What amazes me is that the Prime Minister says he has nothing to say. Shades of Laurier. Shades of King. Shades of St. Laurent. The only time Mr. St. Laurent did not take part in a debate to reply to suggestions or questions was in 1956, and we all know what happened to the St. Laurent government in 1957 after that government trampled on parliament. This government ridicules us now. This is the same old bunch.

Mr. Starr: You have been integrated up to your necks.

Mr. Diefenbaker: All I can say is that this is an arid integration in so far as answers are concerned.

Mr. Prud'homme: What about integration within your own party?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I heard a voice. As a cuckoo in June, heard, but not recorded.

Mr. Prud'homme: Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member wishes to rise on a question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, the "voice" heard was mine, and I should like to repeat the suggestion I made in my speech yesterday, that there should perhaps be a bill for the unification and integration of the Progressive Conservative party. That was all I said.

● (3:30 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not a question of privilege.