

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I did not make any such reference to the United States action in Viet Nam. I understand that the Canadian Press have corrected this erroneous report, and I am grateful to them for correcting it as quickly as they did.

**Mr. Starr:** I wish to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Since there seems to be confusion in the minds of members of the press when quoting the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will the Prime Minister very shortly make a clear cut statement of the government's policy on Viet Nam, as well as other matters, and allow a day for discussion of this very important matter in the house?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I think it might be very useful, in due course, to have a discussion of this matter if the parliamentary timetable will make that possible. I could, of course, call my hon. friend's attention to the fact there will be a supply motion very shortly, and this would be a wonderful opportunity to introduce that subject.

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the Canadian Press is singularly accurate in its reporting of what public figures say, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs outline to us just what it was he did say on this very important matter; because it is important to the country.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows that no question can be asked about a statement made outside the house by a minister. The only question that is generally accepted is one directed to the Prime Minister requesting information as to whether the alleged statement represents government policy. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has replied to the first question on the subject.

**Mr. Hees:** May I ask a further supplementary question. Does the Secretary of State for External Affairs consider that the United States has a right to be in Viet Nam?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of External Affairs. Can the minister say whether the partial broadcast of his remarks in his own voice to this effect and also the Canadian Press quote are incorrect?

[Mr. Starr ]

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** No, Mr. Speaker, they were not incorrect; but so that my hon. friend will not convey the wrong impression, what I said over the radio had nothing to do with the question put by the acting Leader of the Opposition.

## NATO AND NORAD—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POSITION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** In view of another newspaper report concerning a purported statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Canadian Club in Toronto, to the effect that Canada intends to remain loyal to NATO and NORAD, will the minister make a statement to the house on this important decision so the members will be officially informed?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** If my hon. friend will look at *Hansard* for April 11 he will see that I did make a statement on behalf of the government outlining our position with regard to NATO. He will find also in the records of the external affairs committee of the other house a full statement on these two collective security arrangements. Likewise if he will examine the records of the external affairs committee of this house he will find some very edifying reading material.

## GRAIN

## REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN CASH ADVANCES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and ask if he has received a telegram from the National Farmers' Union requesting an increase in cash advances on farm stored grain to \$1.10 per bushel on wheat, 70 cents per bushel on barley and 40 cents per bushel on oats. If the minister has received such a request, what action does the government intend to take in respect of this very reasonable proposition?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have received such a request, and I received a similar request from the president of the Manitoba wheat pool. I am now in the process of preparing an answer, but my answer will be the same as that given in the house previously, namely that the government is not currently contemplating a change in the cash advances program.