COMMONS DEBATES

Oral Questions

• (1430)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

Mr. Reynolds: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Secretary of State for External Affairs aware of this affidavit signed by Mr. Gonzales? If so, has the government protested to the United States the fact that Mr. Gonzales, according to a letter sent to me by the Solicitor General, is operating in Canada and wiretapping Canadian telephones without RCMP permission?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not up to date on this case. I will check with my colleague, the Solicitor General about it and, if required, give my hon. friend further information.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE AT PRATT AND WHITNEY, MONTREAL—SUGGESTED NATIONALIZATION OF COMPANY IF SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS REFUSED

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of proposals made to the Quebec government for settling the Pratt and Whitney strike, which includes the provision that 1,000 of the striking workers should be rehired and the acceptance of those proposals by the Quebec government, will the federal government consider the possibility, if the company refuses to accept those proposals, of nationalizing the plant or turning over the work to another Canadian aircraft company?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question, in this form, is plainly hypothetical and relates to a matter under provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. Orlikow: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the strike has now gone on for so long and created so many problems, and as the company has refused to follow the practice of virtually every other company in Canada in dealing with its employees in accordance with the Rand formula for union security, I suggest that it is not at all unlikely that this company will do just what I suggested. I ask the Prime Minister, as I asked him several months ago when I got an affirmative reply, if the government would at least consider the possibility of nationalizing that company?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if you look at the question, you will see that the hon. member says, if the company does not do certain things, will the federal government do certain other things? This is plainly hypothetical.

[Mr. Reynolds.]

HEALTH

POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I am returning to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I have been a great admirer of his knowledge of dietetics ever since he advised the House last fall that hamburger filled with manure is not detrimental to health, so long as it is properly cooked. That scared people all over the country. I wonder what change in the regulations has been made, because while manges de la merde—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Shame!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I see nothing shameful in quoting the Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I was misquoted.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was wondering whether there had been any change in the regulations, because the minister suggested that anybody who "manges la merde" has nothing to worry about, provided it is properly cooked. Has there been any change in the regulations since that tremendous announcement by the minister?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION EQUIPMENT OF NATO UNIT BE MODERNIZED— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Keep it clean, George. Let's not have any dirty questions.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Between his search for consensus and a contractual link and when he goes to Europe to attend the NATO conference next week, does the Prime Minister intend to visit our forces at Lahr and inspect first-hand the obsolete equipment with which our greatly reduced force is compelled to try to carry out its contractual obligations under the NATO Alliance?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I inform the hon. member that I have visited Lahr several times, which is probably more than he can say.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have been to Lahr four times.

Mr. Baldwin: And he does not have available the Jetstar, either.