

BERLIN—INQUIRY AS TO INDICATIONS
OF CRISIS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas R. Berger (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, may I respectfully direct a question to the Prime Minister. Last week the Prime Minister said there were indications that the Soviet union might shortly precipitate a new crisis in Berlin. Can the Prime Minister tell the house at this time what those indications were?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR OBSERVANCE OF PEACE WEEK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister and I regret I have not given him notice of it. Has the Prime Minister received a letter from the Canadian campaign for nuclear disarmament over the signature of Hon. J. T. Thorson, requesting that the week of November 5 to November 11 be proclaimed "Peace Week" throughout Canada? If so, has he any statement to make concerning the request at this time?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did receive a letter, and I informed Judge Thorson that while naturally we were all interested in doing anything that would achieve peace, a course had been followed by successive governments that a request to set aside a day or a week for an avowed purpose was not generally acceptable.

CARRIAGE OF NUCLEAR BOMBS OVER CANADA IN
U.S. PLANES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, because it is of urgent importance to a good many Canadians, and I try to rationalize my desire for information with my respect for the rules. In view of a statement yesterday by the eminent nuclear physicist, Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, that an H-bomb with the power of 24 million tons of T.N.T. that was jettisoned over North Carolina January 24, 1961, came very close to exploding because five of its six safety devices failed, would the minister state whether United States planes carrying this type of bomb fly over Canada?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to state that there is no confirmation whatsoever that that statement is correct. I notice that the United States defence department officials refused to accept or confirm it. So far as the latter part of the question is

Inquiries of the Ministry

concerned, the situation in that regard has been made clear on many occasions in the past, and I am sure the hon. member must remember them. On June 3, 1958 the Prime Minister had this to say:

In the passages to which I have referred the house was informed that United States bomber aircraft carry nuclear weapons over Canada only with prior permission from Canada; that each flight is dealt with separately by specific application, and there is no blanket authority; that the weapons are inactivated in order to avoid the possibility of accidents; and that the procedures being followed are unchanged from those which had been instituted by the previous government.

Mr. Charles M. Drury (St. Antoine-Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has Canada given to the United States any undertaking, express or implied, that we will accept and use nuclear weapons on or from Canadian soil?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what has been said in connection with that whole question on numerous occasions here in the house during the past two or three years.

UNITED NATIONS

NUCLEAR TESTING—CANADIAN POSITION
RESPECTING MEXICAN RESOLUTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question based on a reply he gave to a question asked of him on Friday last by the hon. member for Greenwood. My question is, in view of the minister's declaration that the government of Canada is opposed to nuclear tests with or without control, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs say that Canada will support the resolution now standing in the name of 30 nations which was tabled last Friday at the United Nations, and which calls on the nuclear powers to cease all nuclear weapons tests before January 1, 1963.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we did not receive the text of that resolution until the week end, and it is still under consideration.

(Translation):

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR FRENCH EDITION OF REVISED
ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.