

Inquiries of the Ministry

called together to review the recommendations of the inquiry before any of the suggestions are incorporated into amendments to the present legislation?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr Speaker, I am not in a position to give that assurance as the standing committee is a creature of the house. However, I am sure that if it wished to review the final order there would be no reason it could not do so. I hope that by the time the commission has completed its hearings everyone will be satisfied with the decisions that are taken.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MIDDLE EAST—REPORTED PEACE OFFER BY KING OF JORDAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on what seemed to me to be a matter of importance in the international field, but instead I will address it to the Acting Prime Minister.

Did King Hussein of Jordan present to representatives of the Canadian government, as he is said to have done to western diplomats, an offer to recognize the right of all in the Middle East, including Israel, to live in peace and security? Did King Hussein also state that President Nasser of the United Arab Republic was ready to grant Israel free maritime access to the Suez canal and gulf of Aqaba if the right conditions were reached through a general settlement?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs might wish to comment on this question.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the report in the newspaper of King Hussein's statement, which I think was made in a television interview, but no such offer or proposal has been made to the government of Canada.

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the importance of this proposal to a settlement in the Middle East and the reported further statement by King Hussein about the urgency of a political solution, probably at the level of the security council, within a very short space of time, will the Canadian government make inquiries into this matter and, if deemed advisable, bring it to the security council?

[Mr. Southam.]

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the house will be aware that the government has been pursuing very actively indeed any useful means to secure peace in the Middle East. In so far as the proposal of King Hussein is useful and can be followed up, it will be.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**INQUIRY AS TO NAMING OF APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that the Northwest Territories legislative council sits next Monday, and in order to give its members sufficient time to study legislation to come before that body, will the minister now announce the appointments of the four members who are still to be named, if they have not already been, to the council?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this is a question that I would have expected to hear from behind me instead of from the other side of the house. I know the hon. member's fears will be allayed when I tell him that those who are going to be appointed have already been alerted.

Mr. Nielsen: Is the minister prepared to announce the names of those who have been appointed to this legislative body?

Mr. Laing: No, sir, not today.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**INQUIRY AS TO INFORMATION ON RUSSIAN SPACE BOMB**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Queens): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I should like to address my question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister had any discussions with Secretary McNamara or any defence officials of the United States with regard to the announcement of the secretary last week of a Soviet orbital space bomb?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have had no particular conversation with regard to this subject but I can say that we were briefed some time ago on this possible development. Some