

Inquiries of the Ministry
NATIONAL DEFENCE

PURPOSE OF OPERATION "VIKING" IN ARCTIC

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence but I see he has been temporarily called out of the House so I will direct it to the Prime Minister. Can he say whether operation Viking to start in April, is related in any way to the permanent establishment of Canadian troops on the islands of the Canadian Arctic?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will have to ask the member to repeat the question to the minister when he comes back. I am not aware of this.

USE OF ARCTIC WATERS BY RUSSIAN
 SUBMARINES

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Can he tell us whether or not permission has been given to the Soviet Union for submarines to proceed through the waters of the Canadian Arctic? Perhaps he can tell us that.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not know that the Soviet Union has asked for such permission.

Mr. Nesbitt: I have a final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any evidence that the Russians have landed any equipment on our Arctic islands? Now, surely—

Mr. Trudeau: Surely. I know of no such evidence. Obviously if the hon. member has some important communication to that effect, he should at once get in touch with the Minister of National Defence or the Solicitor General.

Mr. Baldwin: Where is he?

Mr. Hees: He is supposed to be here. That is what we are trying to do.

PROTECTION OF LASER INVENTION BY VAL-
 CARTIER DEFENCE RESEARCH
 ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): My question is also directed to the Minister of National Defence, but since he is not here perhaps I should direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. It arises out of recent developments at the Defence Research Board establishment at Valcartier, where one of our scientists has apparently made a major discovery relating to the industrial use of laser beams. Since licencing of firms for production

[Mr. Speaker.]

seems to be imminent, can the minister tell the House what steps are being taken to ensure that this invention will be retained for development in Canada by Canadians?

Mr. David Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): I can inform the hon. member that the Canadian government has taken out what we think are all the necessary patents to protect this invention. We have informed the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce what the invention is all about. We have briefed the industry, particularly the electronics industry, and we are now awaiting proposals.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

METRO TORONTO—EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT
 POLICIES ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): In the absence of the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, may I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there has been a 33 per cent increase in unemployment in metro Toronto in the last month, is it the intention of the Prime Minister and of his government to deliberately continue policies that create unemployment?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I realize that my question is on a subject which might seem mundane to the Prime Minister. May I therefore rephrase it and ask if we could arrange, if possible, to send him over a baby's rattle to add to his collection of toys.

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—CLOSING OF CNR NO. 1
 TRANSIT SHED

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in this dramatic question period I have a mild question to ask the Minister of Transport arising out of the closing of the CNR No. 1 transit shed in St. John's, Newfoundland. I want to ask the minister whether he received a wire on this subject sent to him on February 16 by the president of the Longshoremens Protective Union, whether he has replied to it, and if he has not replied to it, why?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I am not sure of the dates or whether the hon. member is referring to the