

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the responsible officials in the department that no specific agreement has been entered into to supply bases for that particular system.

I must, however, point out that this system is assigned to the air defence forces of North America. Under the NORAD Agreement the American forces will then be able to use with the consent of the Canadian Armed Forces our Canadian bases for supplies and training, according to needs.

On the other hand, permanent use would require negotiations between the two governments. I can assure the hon. member that there were no negotiations conducted at any level whatever to use for such a purpose our bases located in the Far North.

[*English*]

FUTURE USE OF U.S. BASES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. During the course of these negotiations in Washington was the future of American bases in Newfoundland and Labrador discussed?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): No, sir.

CANADA COUNCIL

GRANT TO STANLEY GRAY—REQUEST FOR
INVESTIGATION OF POLITICAL
ACTIVITIES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Was the Secretary of State advised of the Canada Council grant to Stanley Gray before the grant was announced to the public, and if so at what stage of the proceedings was he so advised?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether this is the type of question that can be asked at this time. I have the impression that the question should either be placed on the Order Paper or discussed at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Dinsdale: Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, with your permission I may rephrase my question to make it a matter of great urgency.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

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Mr. Dinsdale: Will the minister determine and report to the house whether officials of the Canada Council dealing with Mr. Gray's application gave any consideration to Mr. Gray's involvement in disruptions at McGill, and will he present to the house a clear statement of the government's position on the question of Canada Council awards to persons known to counsel or encourage violent social disruption and revolution?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I was normally informed by the Canada Council after the decision was taken.

The Council itself took into consideration the problems raised, as indicated by the reply which I have here and which states that the academic panel had passed a resolution recommending that a grant be given to Mr. Gray. But in the meantime, due to the publicity given to the part played by Mr. Gray in the events which took place throughout last winter at McGill University, the chairman and other members of the Council advised the academic panel that the final decision in that matter would be taken by the Council itself, since finally it would have to assume the responsibility.

On March 31, the matter was considered at length by the academic committee which is made up of members of the Council who on account of their experience and special interests are especially concerned with the activity of that Council in university circles. That committee has ratified in its turn the recommendation of the selection committee of university affairs.

As for the policy of the Canada Council, this organization is acting in accordance with the legislation governing it and which does not allow it to base its decisions at the academic level on political considerations.

[*English*]

Mr. Dinsdale: In light of the minister's statement I wonder whether he will investigate and report to the house in respect of Mr. Gray's statement that—

—I have reason to believe the decision was postponed until now for political reasons.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I do not have to make any kind of investigation on that point, because I know it has not been the case.