

Inquiries of the Ministry

Is the minister aware of the draft final communique prepared by the United States for the forthcoming NATO meeting, and does this mean that we can expect failure from this most important meeting?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the existence of the draft; therefore I have not seen it.

ALLEGED BREAKING OF CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC CODE BY VENEZUELA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I wonder if the minister is yet in a position to make a report on the alleged breaking of the Canadian diplomatic code by the security police of Venezuela? In other words, has any report been received in response to the request the minister said was sent out a week ago last Friday?

Hon. Sidney E. Smith (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We have not yet received any report in the department.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT FOR CANADIAN WORKERS IN MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Landry (Dorchester): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Will the minister tell the house whether conferences on Canadian-American relations took place in Ottawa at the beginning of December between members of the United States house foreign affairs committee and officials of the Canadian labour department, as was announced in a Washington paper on November 20? If so, will the minister tell the house whether or not the officials attending this meeting discussed the question of a reciprocal agreement on unemployment compensation for our Canadian workers, both in Maine and New Hampshire? Could the minister advise the house of the progress made in this matter?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. I have checked with the officials of my department, and neither they nor I are aware of any such conference as that indicated in the question of the hon. member.

As to the progress of this matter, Mr. Speaker, I have been recently in communication with the governors of both states with

a view to negotiating upon this matter, and I hope they will reply favourably.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REPORTED TIGHTER SURVEILLANCE OF PRIVATELY OWNED STATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Guy Rouleau (Dollard): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is the minister aware that according to a report which appeared in this morning's *Montreal Gazette* the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation plans tighter surveillance of the operators of privately owned radio and television stations? If so, I should like to know whether this is in accordance with the government's policies?

Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that the hon. member for Dollard reads the same newspaper each morning that I do, and I hope he profits from his reading. My knowledge of this matter is confined to the story I saw in the *Gazette* this morning. I have no further knowledge about it other than that which was contained in the news story.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation works within the framework of an act which was passed several years ago. Under that act it has power to make regulations, and it is the policy of this government to allow the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation independent action within the framework of that act and the regulations which were drawn up long ago.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF LETTER FROM MEMBER FOR VANCOUVER-BURRARD TO PRIME MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister now received the five-page letter from the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Taylor), proposing immediate action to remedy the serious unemployment in Vancouver? If so, in view of the fact that the hon. member made his letter public, will the Prime Minister also make his reply public so the people of Vancouver will know what action he intends to take on these sensible proposals?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, whatever action is taken or has been taken will be communicated to parliament, and in that way the information will be available to the public.