Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am satisfied that it has not been impaired in any way.

Mr. Forrestall: I welcome the minister's assurance. Can he also give the same assurance in respect of the level of the exchange of such scientific and technological information with the United States, pertaining particularly to defence and strategic planning?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, it is a little difficult to measure that exactly, although the level of exchange at the moment is very high.

AGRICULTURE

INTEREST RATE ON LOANS FOR EXPANSION OF AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Is he now in a position to adivse the House what interest rate will be charged on loans under the \$10 million program for multipurpose agricultural exhibition expansion and, if not, when will he announce this?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the exact figure because it will change from time to time in accordance with the amount the government is paying for meidum-term money, but I can assure the hon. member it will be very favourable in comparison with any other money that may be available for a 30-year term.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

STATUS OF VERNON MILITARY BASE

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of National Defence in a position to say when the Vernon air base will be declared surplus and announced as being for sale if that is the government's position, and when does his department intend to advertise the sale of that base?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I take it the hon. member is referring to the Vernon military base and the site of the cadet camp. Let me indicate that there is no present intention to phase this base out of its present activity as a cadet camp in western Canada. We expect to continue these cadet operations there for some years. Arrangements are being made with educational authorities in British Columbia to make some part of the site available for community college facilities when it is not being used as a cadet camp, but in terms of being declared surplus and being disposed of there is no present intention to do so.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED POLICY TO EXPAND DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. H. A. Moore (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind the lower cost of feed grains it is now obvious that dairy production is falling below domestic demands in this country. Is the government now considering a policy based on the expansion of this industry rather than the too restrictive policy which is in force at the present time?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): That is a pretty broad question, Mr. Speaker, but in order that the hon. member can advise his constituents I should indicate that we have taken action three times this year to increase returns to dairy producers.

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN INITIATIVE TO OBTAIN REPRESENTATION FOR TAIWAN

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether Canada proposes at this time to take any initiative at the United Nations to obtain representation for the people of Taiwan? I ask this because I understand that universality of membership is a fundamental principle of the United Nations.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): So far as I know, Mr. Speaker, there has been no application or any consideration of the question of representation for the people of Taiwan. The government on that island claims to be the government of China as a whole.

• (2:50 p.m.)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VISITS BY FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE—ARRANGEMENTS TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister a question regarding the security of foreign visitors such as Premier Kosygin. He said he would refer the matter to the Solicitor General. Is the Solicitor General prepared to make a report now or at some later date regarding the alleged brutality that took place in Toronto and, second, whether the federal government intends to share the cost of security for foreign visitors in cities such as Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): On the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, this matter is obviously falls under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of Ontario and if the hon. member so wishes, I could inform the House of the results of this inquiry when the Attorney General is kind enough to send me a report.