

Inquiries of the Ministry

department or by the Department of National Defence?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I merely assume that on the subject of military bases, one refers only to matters under federal jurisdiction. Therefore, the decision is up to the federal government. However, in those cases, we believe there will be consultations, but the central government keeps the authority or the power to make decisions.

[*English*]

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has he consulted his colleague, the Minister of National Defence, with a view to bringing pressure to bear to have a defence establishment set up in the province of Newfoundland in accordance with the request to the minister by the Royal Canadian Legion?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not my duty, professionally, as Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, to make representations to the Minister of National Defence.

[*English*]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I may direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister who was absent last week when the matter came up. Would he not give consideration to prior consultation with the provinces, particularly those provinces where the removal of armed forces bases would cause severe economic hardship?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the minister covered this subject very well.

Mr. Forrestall: I wonder whether you even know what is going on.

Mr. Trudeau: Put your earphones on.

Mr. Forrestall: Go back out west.

the Prime Minister. In view of the importance of the work of the Special Joint Committee on Tax Reform and in view of the Prime Minister's clear and well stated concern about the question of conflict of interest, would the right hon. gentleman consider seeking an agreement between this house and the other place under which all the members of that special committee might be invited to declare their directorships and other financial interests which could come into conflict with any proposed changes in Canada's tax legislation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I should not like to determine what the other house may wish to do in putting members on this committee. I am sure the suggestion put forward by the hon. member will be conveyed to them in one way or another. After all, they all have interests as taxpayers in what happens in connection with tax reform; it might be difficult to eliminate all people with an interest in taxation.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Prime Minister would look more closely at what I said, either now or when he gets *Hansard*. I referred to members from both houses on that committee. My suggestion is that there might be some guidelines in accordance with which members of the committee would be encouraged to declare their interests in advance. I recognize the point that the Prime Minister cannot compel members to do this, but I wonder whether a lead could not be given?

Mr. Trudeau: I believe the whole question of the Senate and House of Commons Act is to be brought before a committee, and this aspect could then be dealt with generally. I realize, and I have said this earlier, that the whole question of conflict of interest as tackled by the present statute is not adequately dealt with in the light of modern practices, and I agree that the whole subject might be looked into. I hesitate to say it ought to be done specifically for the purpose of this committee; it seems to me we are thinking in terms of a general question relating to many committees.

TAX REFORM

SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE—SUGGESTED
DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF
INTEREST BY MEMBERS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT AND
PARTICIPATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask