

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask the Prime Minister this, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want a frivolous reply. Is it or is it not a fact that this government now has plans to remove the word "Royal" from that designation? That is a simple question.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, if the member will look at my answer tomorrow in *Hansard* he will find I said that this is the first I heard of such a suggestion. Therefore, it follows that we have no such plans.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is fine.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

COST OF DESTROYER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM—DATE OF DELIVERY OF SHIPS AND POSSIBILITY OF COMPLETION OF WORK AT EAST COAST YARDS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might direct a question to the Minister of National Defence arising out of the continually mounting cost in respect of the DDH program. I should like to ask the minister whether he could indicate to the House if any of the four ships will get out of the river yards before the end of this year and perhaps he might indicate whether plans are being formulated to complete the work on these ships either at the government dockyard in Halifax or at one of the east coast yards.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I can inform the hon. gentleman that the plans for the ships are as I mentioned before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence; that is to say, three of the ships will be delivered from the yards during the course of 1972 and the fourth during the early part of 1973.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could indicate to the House whether he would be prepared, sometime prior to the end of the year, to give a statement at the earliest possible opportunity to the Standing Committee with regard to the cost estimates of this program to date.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, I gave a very elaborate statement on the contract to the committee. I would be prepared, however, during the course of the committee's consideration of departmental estimates, to go again into the question if the committee wishes.

[Later:]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, my further supplementary is to the Minister of National Defence. I should like to ask him whether he would be prepared to answer the first part of my earlier question, that is, is the department giving consideration to having the completion of the final work on the DDH's done in the dockyard at Halifax or in one of the east coast yards.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I suppose even after the ships are delivered, and have undergone their trials, there

[Mr. Speaker.]

may be some work to be done on them as a result of the trials. It depends on how much work. Essentially, I would not think any work prior to commissioning would be done in east coast yards. These ships would be completed in the manufacturing shipyards.

POSSIBLE SALE OF CF-5 AIRCRAFT TO VENEZUELA—PURPOSE OF REPLACEMENT BY TWO-SEATER VERSION

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether my question is supplementary but it relates to the possible sale of 20 CF-5 aircraft to Venezuela and the statement that they would be replaced in the Canadian Armed Forces by a two-seater version. I should like to ask for what purpose the two-seater version would be employed.

Mr. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as indicated in the white paper on defence published in August and as I indicated in response to a question last week, it would be the intention to use some of the CF-5 aircraft for the purpose of replacing the T-33 aircraft which is now at the end of its life as the advanced trainer. The proposal would be either to convert existing single aircraft or if there were sales under the aegis of my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to construct additional duals.

POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF HIGH SPEED AIRCRAFT—PURPOSE OF TRAINING IN USE OF HIGH SPEED AIRCRAFT

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, is it anticipated that the Department of National Defence will be purchasing additional aircraft capable of speeds in excess of Mach 1 and if so what kind and for what purpose. If not for what purpose are these trainers to be employed?

Mr. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Well, I might remind the hon. member that the CF-101 aircraft as well as the CF-104 will continue in service, probably until the end of this decade. It is for that purpose that training in advanced high-speed aircraft is desirable.

REASON FOR SALE OF CF-5 AIRCRAFT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, since the minister assured us a year ago when questioned on this matter that the CF-5 was completely satisfactory for the use of the Canadian armed forces, and would be used by the Canadian armed forces, I should like to ask now why the government is in such a hurry to sell these planes.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That, of course, is a debating point. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East, who raised this matter in the first instance, for a last supplementary and then go on to the next subject.