

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

COMPOSITION OF CANADIAN ELEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST
PEACE FORCE—EFFECT ON OTHER COMMITMENTS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence relating to the statement we heard this afternoon about the sending of a force to the Middle East. I think the House and the country would like to know the composition of this contingent, which units and support services have been selected, what materiel they will be required to take with them by way of aircraft, communications equipment and so on, and where they will be stationed.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): I believe we will be able to give the hon. member and the House this information in great detail during the debate. I can say, however, that the organizational structure of the force being sent overseas will be based on the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Edmonton. Other specialists will be added to that structure. We will be sending trucks, some aircraft and also communications equipment.

[Later:]

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): My question is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich. Can the Minister of National Defence tell the House exactly how many troops this Middle East commitment will involve? Is it 1400, as reported, or is it less or more than that figure? Can he also tell the House whether the provision of such troops engaged in logistics support will in any way comprise our operations in Canada, Europe, Cyprus or anywhere else where they are stationed?

Mr. Richardson: The planning is still proceeding. The exact number of troops is not known but it will be at least 1,000 and not more than 1,500, so the figure of 1,400 mentioned by the hon. member is in the range. The equipment and personnel we will be sending will not adversely affect our operations in Canada or our commitments to NATO.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I notice there are perhaps five or six members who are seeking supplementaries on this subject. I wonder whether hon. members ought not to feel they are anticipating an order of the day since it is my understanding there is to be a debate or a statement on motions. It seems to me hon. members are seeking information which normally ought to be given by way of a statement on motions which I hope will be made very soon. Perhaps we should try not to ask too many supplementaries on this subject.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SEIZURE OF PINBALL MACHINES AND GAMBLING
DEVICES—POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF MAFIA

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Solicitor General arising from conflicting information concerning the seizure of

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

pinball machines and other gambling devices. Has this action been ordered by the federal government, and is there any evidence that the Mafia is involved?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): I have no information regarding that matter, Mr. Speaker. I will check and give an answer to the hon. member later.

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FISHERIES

DATE OF REPORT ON EFFECT OF CLOSING EAST COAST
PORTS TO FOREIGN FISHING FLEETS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, this question is addressed to the Minister of the Environment and Fisheries. When can we expect a report on the special study into the possible effects of closing east coast Canadian ports to foreign fishing fleets, presently being carried out by Mr. Ernest Weeks, Chairman of the Canadian Saltfish Corporation?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Toward the end of the year, Mr. Speaker.

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL APPLICATION B—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO
APPROVAL PRIOR TO HEARING

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Communications whether, in view of the fact Bell Canada is currently installing equipment which can only become operational upon the approval of its application B, he is in a position to assure the House that Bell Canada has not received any prior indication that any part of this application will be approved by the CTC?

Mr. Speaker: While that question is being considered, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Lisgar.

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AIR TRANSPORT

BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON ROUTES WITH UNITED
STATES—SUGGESTED RENEGOTIATION TO MEET
MANITOBA'S REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In light of the recent statement by the Manitoba Minister of Industry that the recent air route agreement falls short of meeting Manitoba's regional requirements as discussed at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference, will the minister renegotiate the terms of the agreement which allocated 28 routes to the United States and only 18 to Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): This is something I intend to look into, Mr. Speaker.