

Inquiries of the Ministry

for the centennial, would it not have been better if this advertising program had been shared among some other advertising agencies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question also might be placed on the order paper.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING CANADA'S NUCLEAR ROLE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In order to assist the house in its consideration of the subject of national defence, will the Prime Minister inform us of his success during the last three years in fulfilling his promise to negotiate Canada out of its nuclear role?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a very interesting question but it seems to me it is the type of question that would require a long answer and is not the type that should be asked or answered at this time.

[Later:]

Mr. Churchill: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did not have the opportunity to do so right after you indicated that the answer to my question might be lengthy. My point of order is this. How is it possible to determine in advance whether an answer will be long or short? I do not think that is possible.

Mr. Speaker: I admit with the hon. member that it is very difficult, but it is one of the responsibilities of the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[Later:]

Mr. Churchill: I have a question for the Prime Minister which will require a very short answer. Is the Prime Minister going to fulfil his promise to negotiate Canada out of its nuclear role?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): As my friend the Minister of National Defence indicated last night—it was too bad my hon. friend was not listening carefully—we are at present doing just that.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Burnaby-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Colin Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I will straighten out my credentials later. My question is

[Mr. Thompson.]

for the Prime Minister. It arises out of an answer he gave a few minutes ago to the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre in which he indicated that the government was now in the process of negotiating itself out of its nuclear role. My question is, how does the Prime Minister reconcile that statement with the statement made last night by the Minister of National Defence that appears at the bottom of page 1418 and at the top of page 1419 of *Hansard* of yesterday's date, where the Minister of National Defence is reported to have said:

At that time our six squadrons in Germany will be fully operational in the non-nuclear attack role as well as in the nuclear strike role.

Mr. Churchill: "As well as in the nuclear strike role".

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the hon. member is entering into argument when he asks one minister to try to reconcile one statement with a statement made by another minister. That is argument.

An hon. Member: It is a possibility, surely.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is an argument so far as the Chair is concerned.

[Translation]

VAL D'OR, QUE.—MAINTENANCE COST OF NUCLEAR BASE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence?

Are the operating costs of the nuclear base at Val d'Or paid in full by the Canadian government or does the latter get help from the United States?

Mr. Speaker: That question is very important and very interesting, but it is not so urgent that it cannot be put on the order paper.

[English]

OLD AGE SECURITY**DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES RESPECTING INCREASED PAYMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Prime Minister whether, as reported, the government is giving consideration to an increase in old age pensions, and whether it is communicating with several provinces to secure consent on the part of the provinces to the acceptance by them of part of the cost load?