

and in view of the great importance and interest of this subject, he will either consider making a statement on motions to this House or at least tabling the statement in the House?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I expect that the press release that was issued this morning will be in all the newspapers this afternoon, so they more or less scooped the House in this particular instance.

[Later:]

Mr. Brewin: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it government policy to scoop the House by making important announcements in the press rather than the House which is very much interested in them?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, this is just the implementation of the statement I made on September 19, 1969, when I announced the establishment of that headquarters.

RECRUITMENT OF ESKIMOS FOR NORTHERN SERVICE

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcoit): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. Will the armed services recruit Eskimos in the north particularly in view of the fact that they probably have a great deal more to teach us than we have to teach them about Arctic conditions?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that this question has been asked because I discovered to my great surprise and to my great satisfaction during the trip I made last week in the north that we do employ Eskimo and Indian people as much as we can. As a matter of fact, I have seen a cadet unit at Inuvik, composed of a little more than 50 per cent of Eskimos, and which is coming down at the end of the month to the Calgary tattoo. We are very happy to have the expertise of the local people to draw on. It is the intention, of course, to try to increase their participation in the armed services.

RESEARCH

UNITED STATES ARCTIC PROGRAM— CONSULTATION WITH CANADA— CANADIAN INTENTION

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

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister a question arising out of President Nixon's order that priority be given to recommendations made by the United States council on marine resources and engineering development with regard to the U.S. program concerning Arctic environmental and resource research. Has there been any consultation by the United States authorities with the government of Canada about this program or about the intentions of the United States government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will inquire, Mr. Speaker. There was none that I know of.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question. Would the Prime Minister also make inquiries to ascertain whether it is the United States government's intention to carry out this program simply within what is recognized as its sovereign territory, or what its intentions may be with regard to the area in the north where it proposes to conduct this research? Also, would the Prime Minister himself or have an appropriate minister make a statement to the House as to this government's intention regarding the launching of a research program in respect of the development of the north, particularly in respect of the use of Hovercraft and other similar methods of travel for investigation in the north, comparable to the program announced by the President of the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will make the inquiries the hon. member is suggesting and see whether a statement is necessary.

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM— ACHIEVEMENT OF GOAL

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Now that operation LIFT has been well publicized, can the minister inform the House whether the wheat reduction acreage goal of 20 million will be reached and, if not, what is the projected acreage at this time?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): No survey of intention has been made in a recent period to give any firm indication. Of course the farmers themselves are still making final decisions on what they will plant in the next few weeks.