

[English]

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it will. I shall announce to the House what the changes in the holdback on the subsidy support program are as soon as I have confirmation from the provinces and the milk marketing boards in those provinces that a market-sharing program is in effect.

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Is it true that, since December 1, the penalty on surplus production has been reduced from \$1.25 to 26 cents?

[English]

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not true in the way the hon. member put the matter. I think, as I said, that there will be a very important change, whether from \$1.25 to 26 cents or to some other figure, as soon as the provinces have market-sharing quotas in effect.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STUDY OF NATO'S OUTLOOK—COMMENTS BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence and welcome him back to the House after his trip to attend the NATO meetings and visit our forces in Europe.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Smile, dear, smile. Could he advise the House of the reaction of the members of the NATO council to the gratuitous advice given to the council by the new boy regarding the future operations of NATO—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that the question cannot be asked in those terms. If he would like to ask the question in terms that are acceptable to the Chair, perhaps he could proceed.

Mr. Hees: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise the House as to what was the reaction of the NATO council to the advice which the minister gave the other members regarding the future operations of NATO, particularly in view of the fact that the government he represents has just withdrawn half of its forces which had been committed to that body?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that the comments which we made at that time about the A.D. 70's study, which is the context in which the remarks were made, were agreed to be just under the circumstances and were well taken.

Mr. Hees: Could the minister advise the House if the reaction of the members of the NATO council to the

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minister's precocious pomposity was the same acute nausea which was experienced by this country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

NATO—NUMBER OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence. Without using any expressions such as he has just heard—being devoid of expressions of that kind—may I ask him this question? What will the number of Canadian personnel in NATO be during the coming year? Will the number be 5,000, as it originally was, or 2,500, to which figure the force was reduced? I ask this question because, after reading what he said in Europe, there is considerable doubt as to what he meant.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I said in Europe that the force level would be 5,000. I say to the right hon. member that the force level will be 5,000, hence 5,000 means 5,000.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, when was it that 5,000 became 5,000? When did the government of Canada change its attitude regarding the reduction of our forces to 2,500?

An hon. Member: Never.

Mr. Diefenbaker: When was the conversion on the road to Damascus?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, there was never any decision to reduce the forces to 2,500. There was a full force level proposed a little over a year ago, and after discussions with the NATO authorities it was equalized at a level of 5,000. That has been the position at least so long as I have been Minister of National Defence and for some time before that.

PROPOSED SALE OF ARMS BY BRITAIN TO SOUTH AFRICA —VISIT TO TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA BY PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Did he send his special assistant, Dr. Ivan Head, to confer with President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Kaunda of Zambia? If so, was the question of the resumption of the sale of arms by Britain to South Africa one of the subjects that Dr. Head was required to discuss with the two African leaders?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The answer to both questions is yes.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Prime Minister whether Dr. Head's instructions were to inform the two African leaders that the Canadian government remains firm in its opposition to the resumption of the sale of arms by Britain to South Africa or whether he was to negotiate some kind of accommodation?