

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL DEFENCE**

REQUEST THAT ADMIRAL BOYLE APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): In the absence of the chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence perhaps the vice-chairman of that committee, the hon. member for Algoma could reply. As Admiral Boyle will probably not be serving for much longer I wonder if the vice-chairman would invite him to appear as a witness at the committee meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow evening. The committee would no doubt benefit from hearing the opinions of the commander of Maritime Command on the ship replacement program, and other matters?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. While in order initially, this question also became a representation.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

USE COMMON FUND TO FINANCE COMMODITIES

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It has been reported that the Prime Ministers' meeting in London agreed to create a common fund to finance commodities. Could the Prime Minister tell the House if this fund would be used only for Third World countries or is it to be used for the purchase of reserve stocks of grain such as is proposed by the United States and Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the discussion was in the context of the north-south dialogue of the CIEC conference which will be meeting at the end of this month under the co-chairmanship of the President of the Privy Council. Therefore, both discussions turned on the fund which could be of assistance to Third World countries, particularly the less developed countries, those most in need. It is at this stage only a commitment in principle. My colleague, the President of the Privy Council, will be able to give the final answer to the hon. member's question when he returns from Paris.

ASSURANCE BY FRANCE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister. In view of the assurances that the President of France is reported to have given to the Prime Minister in regard to non-interference in the internal affairs of Canada, can the Prime Minister tell the House if this assurance of non-intervention will likely hold even if other political parties or forces come to power in that country in the forthcoming elections?

● (1500)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is hypothetical, but is also incorrect in its assump-

[Mr. Alexander.]

tion. I think the hon. member has been misinformed. The President of France did not give me any such assurances. The government of France has, through ministers visiting in Canada and indeed through statements made as recently as two or three weeks ago in Paris through the mouth of its own foreign minister, given the assurance to which the hon. member refers. So, in that sense, I want to correct the question a little bit. Its intent is to speculate on what would happen if the government of France should change. Of course, I cannot reflect on that; I have no idea, and if I had, I would not want to speculate on it in public any more than I would want the President of France to speculate on the probability that the Tories will remain in opposition for many years to come.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, or question of privilege, relating to my exchange with the Minister of National Defence as reported at page 5601 of *Hansard* concerning the resignation or retirement of Admiral Boyle. I have checked *Hansard* and transcripts of various reports since last Friday and can arrive at no conclusion other than that the Minister of National Defence misled the House in his replies to my questions last Friday. I understand that points of this nature must be raised at the first possible opportunity, and this is my first opportunity. Unfortunately, the minister is absent from the House, and will be for several days.

My point in rising at this time is simply to serve the necessary notice that I intend to raise this matter as a question of privilege the next time the minister and I are both in the House.

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since the parliamentary secretary in his reply apparently did not know the difference between Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton Island, although many people throughout the world know where Cape Breton Island is—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Muir: —I shall pursue the question of decentralization further on the "late show".

Mr. Poulin: Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. member that I know the difference between Cape Breton Island and Prince Edward Island. Mr. Speaker, my mother was from Cape Breton, and I think she would like to encourage the hon. member to represent it more adequately.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!