

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

I might say to the hon. gentleman, in respect of the last statement, that while it may seem somewhat paradoxical, in the event that this is adopted members while still in a recumbent position will be able to stand up and be counted.

**WATER RESOURCES****CHICAGO DIVERSION—INQUIRY AS TO PRESENT POSITION**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier):** May I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister seen a report in this morning's press concerning the Chicago water diversion and the present position before the foreign affairs committee of the Senate of the United States? Can he tell the house what the position is since the comprehensive statement made by the Prime Minister earlier in this session? Could he tell us what representations, if any, have been made since then, and what is the present position of the matter in so far as Canada is concerned?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, in December of last year Senator Fulbright, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the United States Senate, requested the state department to hold consultations with Canada about this question. These consultations were duly held here about the 12th of January and the whole question was thoroughly canvassed at that time. Later the United States state department evidently made a report to the foreign relations committee of the Senate, and that committee has been sitting in secret, I believe, dealing with the proposed bill.

As I understand it, the report this morning referred to a vote in the Senate committee dealing with the possibility of having witnesses called before that committee. The Canadian position was made very clear during the consultations in January of this year, and there has been no deviation from the strong stand which the government has taken against the proposed diversion.

**PENSIONS****RIGHTS OF CANADIANS EMPLOYED ON U.S. BASES IN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, notice of which has been given. Does the minister have a statement to make with regard to the pension rights of Canadian nationals employed on United States defence bases in Canada, more

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

particularly with reference to Canadian nationals employed at Pepperrell air force base, St. John's, Newfoundland?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know the hon. member for St. John's East has been very much concerned about this matter. I believe that Pepperrell air base is in his constituency.

The house will recognize that this is a matter between the United States government on the one hand and the individual Canadian employees on the other. Nevertheless, in accordance with the undertaking given by the Prime Minister on April 15, 1959, officials of my department have been discussing this matter informally with the United States embassy. I am pleased to inform the house that yesterday afternoon I received a letter from the United States ambassador which reads as follows:

Recently there have been informal conversations between members of the embassy and officials of the Department of External Affairs regarding the pension rights of Canadians employed at United States military bases in Canada.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that it has been determined that those Canadians who are permanently employed, as defined by United States civil service regulations, by United States forces in Canada are entitled to the benefits of the United States civil service retirement act. A survey to determine the exact number of Canadians so entitled is now being made, and the payroll deductions and employer contributions required by the act will be initiated.

As you know, the number of employees at Pepperrell air force base will be reduced this summer, and I am particularly gratified that the permanent employees there who qualify for retirement because of age and length of service will be afforded certain benefits even though they made no contribution to a retirement fund in the past.

Those employees whose positions are defined as "indefinite" are not entitled to benefits under the United States civil service act, but our department of defence is seeking to find suitable means to provide a retirement system for them. To this end, it is contemplated that the appropriate Canadian authorities will be approached in the near future so that certain technical questions involved may be examined.

**INCOME TAX****DEDUCTIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO MORAL REARMAMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I should like to ask the Minister of National Revenue a question. Is the minister aware that a pamphlet entitled "Ideology and Co-existence" was recently distributed by mail throughout Canada and that it has printed in it a statement to the effect that cheques payable to Moral Rearmament are deductible for income tax purposes? On what grounds is this deduction allowed?