

S.O. 21

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST THAT GANDER, Nfld. BE DESIGNATED CANADIAN FORCES BASE

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, for the past nine years I have pursued the case of base status for CFS Gander. Newfoundland does not have an armed forces base at present. Newfoundland is strategically located for defence purposes, and an armed forces base can fulfil any number of purposes. The Search and Rescue Squadron, which is doing an excellent job, is already located there, following a decision by this Government to try to ensure the safety of our men at sea.

Also, I have documented to three Ministers of National Defence the pure logic of locating interceptor jets at Gander, either permanently, or as an advance staging base, because of frequent interceptions of Soviet bombers off the coastline of my riding, bombers which stray off course from time to time. I firmly believe that the interception time could be drastically reduced if Gander were the advance staging base for our interceptors.

By whatever logic is used, Mr. Speaker, CFS Gander should become CFB Gander. As has been the case with two previous Ministers of National Defence, one Liberal and the other Tory, I am now requesting our present Minister of National Defence to grant us base status in Gander.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CANADIAN FORCES BASE CHATHAM, N.B.—CALL FOR RETENTION

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): The song changes so fast in Chatham, New Brunswick, it is not surprising the residents do not know whose crooning they should dance to, Mr. Speaker. In 1976 the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) promised the people of Chatham that the air base would never close while he was Prime Minister. Quicker than you can sing "Do-wa, Do-wa", the Liberal Government announced the phase out of CFB Chatham.

Steadfast and loyal, the Member for Northumberland-Miramichi (Mr. Dionne) promised his constituents that he would fight to keep the Base intact. Last week the tune on the juke-box changed as the Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy for Miramichi spoke of finding alternative employment for the community, thus reneging on his pledge. Neither this Member nor his toe-tapping colleagues understand that the people of Chatham want the base retained as it is critical to their community and to the economy of their region.

The Tory House Leader (Mr. Nielsen) visited Chatham last weekend and made it very clear that a Progressive Conservative Government would regard the maintenance of CFB Chatham as critical to our defence system and to the economy of that region. We have long been on record as favouring the retention of this Base, and are determined to stand by our

word. The Liberal Government and the Member for Northumberland-Miramichi are to be resoundly condemned for closing out this vital economic sector. Or, in words they will understand, boys, they are playing your swan song!

* * *

[Translation]

POLITICAL PARTIES

NATIONALIST PARTY OF QUEBEC—FINANCIAL STATE

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, the Nationalist Party has started its recruiting campaign, which the Acting Leader, Marcel Léger, has very delicately called "Opération pantoufle". However, this political group is having trouble getting off the ground and Quebecers have caught on to the tricks of these pseudo-indépendantistes. You have to hand it to René Lévesque, who managed to get rid of a troublesome minister by making him an offer he could not refuse: the Nationalist Party. The new party will soon have a clear response from Quebecers, who are not in the least impressed by these so-called "nationalists". I am sure Marcel Léger must feel very uncomfortable in his new role, since he now has all kinds of problems on his plate, and he cannot afford to give the impression he wants to back out. I had already predicted that the Nationalist Party will not get any members elected to Parliament in the next federal election. I now think it is quite possible they will not even be fielding candidates in the next election, because of lack of support. I would urge the Leader of the Nationalist Party, for the sake of the public disclosure they themselves are so fond of, to reveal the state of his party's recruitment finances now that several months have passed since the party was launched, and to make the audit data available to the public.

* * *

[English]

LOTTERIES

LOTO CANADA—HIRING OF CONSULTANT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the recent lottery craze that swept the country has died down and we now know the identity of the Lotto 6/49 winners. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly of Brantford, Ontario, yesterday claimed nearly \$14 million in prize money. But do Canadians realize that an even larger sum remains unclaimed in the coffers of Loto Canada? Loto Canada you may ask? Yes, that dinosaur of lotteries still exists five years after the federal Government got out of the lottery business. Unclaimed winnings, amounting to \$14.5 million, sit collecting interest as Loto Canada goes merrily along with nothing to do except waste taxpayers' dollars.

Last year Loto Canada, with a part-time staff of five, managed to spend the incredible sum of \$779,000. That is \$166,000 for each part-time employee. In addition, it hired a