

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST THAT FEMALE CADETS BE PAID ON THE SAME BASIS AS MALES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the concern of the national cadet organizations of Canada, and as cadets will soon be leaving for summer camp, will the minister indicate what action has been taken to apply the rule contained in Bill C-16, namely, that females will be able to qualify for payment for their service on the same basis as males?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I believe on an earlier occasion the House leader indicated that Bill C-16 has been given high priority. I can say, further, that it is our intention to provide, through other means, pay and allowances for girl cadets when they attend camp, on the same basis as for boy cadets.

Mr. Marshall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In case this does not happen, will the minister consider a reasonable suggestion and remove clause 21 from Bill C-16? If he were to bring the bill before the House it would pass within one hour and everybody would be happy.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF UNION OF NORTH AND SOUTH VIET NAM—REASON FOR EARLY RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIME IN SOUTH VIET NAM

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When Canada made haste to recognize Saigon as the capital of the new régime, was the minister given some assurance that there would not be a union in the near future of North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam and that South Viet Nam would not be governed from Hanoi?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not admit the premise of the question, and the answer to the second part is, no.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, may I ask one supplementary question? In view of the answer to the second part of my question, am I to gather that the minister received no assurance whatsoever that such a union will not take place in the near future?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker. I sought no such assurance; neither did I receive one.

Mr. Horner: Then, why all the haste in recognizing the provisional government?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, quite a number of other countries have already taken that action. It seemed to Canada that it was an appropriate time to recognize the reality of the situation and to put itself in a position to

[Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain).]

deal with concerns affecting Canadians and others in South Viet Nam.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INCOME TAX

DECENTRALIZATION OF DATA PROCESSING—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE IN ATLANTIC REGION

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Now that the minister has announced his decision to decentralize his department's data processing work by establishing five regional centres outside Ottawa, will he inform the House when the Atlantic region office will be established and what will be the criteria for choosing a location in the Atlantic region?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, the decentralization program, which has commenced in Winnipeg, will be phased in over the next three or four years. The criteria will depend on the number of tax returns filed with the Atlantic region, the availability of part-time and full-time workers, the availability of space and availability of communication links.

Mr. Hogan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the heavy concentration of provincial population and unemployment in the Sydney industrial area, would the minister meet with the minister responsible for DREE and with the Secretary of State for External Affairs before taking his decision?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly meet with my two colleagues, particularly the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who carries at the front of his mind and the top of his heart the affairs of Cape Breton.

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TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF NEW POLICY

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister tell the House if the new policy, details of which were apparently either given or leaked to the press yesterday, will include the principle of more responsibility and authority to be vested in the minister for all modes of transportation, or will there again be some diffusion of his control? Is the minister himself to assume more responsibility in the Department of Transport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is referring to a story that was published in the *Globe and Mail*. Newspapermen get information from many sources; some of the information is right, some of it is wrong, so I do not think I should comment on this.

Mr. Murta: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say if the policy paper he is to bring