

Inquiries of the Ministry

act so it may participate in a wider variety of projects than at present?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, it will not be necessary to amend the act in order to achieve the objective suggested by the hon. member for Charlevoix.

[Text]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**EFFECT ON CANADA OF CLOSING OF U.S. BASES**

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Can the minister tell us if there will be repercussions in the Canadian national defence following the statement made yesterday by the United States secretary for defence that 95 American military bases will be closed down?

[Text]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): I do not think it would be appropriate, Mr. Speaker, to comment on the announcement made in Washington until we have the details here, which we would expect to receive fairly shortly. As far as I know there are no changes proposed which would have a direct effect.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to that asked a moment ago by the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) about the decision of the U.S. government to close some military bases.

Has the U.S. government advised Canada that they wished to close some military bases which they now have in our country?

We would like, of course, to obtain an accurate answer in order to know if it is true that the United States will put an end to such activities in Canada?

Mr. Speaker, must the Secretary of State for External Affairs prompt the Minister of National Defence with an answer?

[Text]

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has suggested that I take the question as notice for him.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question with reference to the answer given by the

[Mr. Bélanger.]

Minister of National Defence. I put my question to the Prime Minister. The Minister of National Defence received a question as notice on behalf of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is this an indication of a further cut-back in the Department of National Defence, and are we finally going to have only one minister for the department?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid if there are any cut-backs they will be in the ranks of the opposition.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**PICTOU COUNTY, N.S.—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO RELIEVE UNEMPLOYMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry. I should like to ask the minister whether he has received a telegram from the president of the board of trade of Pictou regarding unemployment in the local shipyard as a result of the recent lay-offs. The minister will recall that a couple of weeks ago I drew to his attention the telegram sent by the union. I should like to ask him whether he has had any success in having any naval refit work placed with this yard.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I have not had the telegram to which the hon. member refers drawn to my attention, but I will be glad to check and find out whether it has been received. I can assure him, however, that we in the Department of Defence Production are seeking ways and means of finding additional work for the Pictou shipyards.

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION**ADVICE ON REMOVAL FROM CITIZENSHIP COURTS OF PORTRAITS OF QUEEN**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he will indicate to the house why he advised the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to have the portraits of the Queen removed from the citizenship courts.

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the assertion made by the hon. member is completely without foundation.

Mr. Churchill: I have a supplementary question. Does the Secretary of State accept