

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

armoury at Dauphin, Manitoba, do I take it that Dauphin is now declared a sensitive area?

**Mr. Hellyer:** No.

[Later:]

**Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin):** I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the hon. gentleman's department, or any government department, given any consideration to imposing limitations which would restrict the right of any citizen in a lawful manner to own or use firearms for such purposes as hunting and recreation?

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** May I take that question as notice?

SASKATOON—REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE  
OF RESERVE UNITS

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, if the house would allow me to preface this question, it has to do with a telegram from our colleague the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Jones), who is seriously ill in hospital. Despite his illness, he continues to show his interest in his constituency, I believe he has sent a wire to the Minister of National Defence asking him if he would give consideration to maintaining the existing reserve units in Saskatoon.

**Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps this might be an opportunity to say something that I had promised to say on Friday last in answer to a question by the hon. member for Skeena. As hon. members know, there has been a reorganization of the reserve components of our armed forces, and this may be the opportunity to give a brief outline.

Hon. members will recall that a commission on the reorganization of the Canadian army militia, which is called the Suttie commission, has been constituted with the object of recommending the best means of fulfilling the militia requirements of Canadian defence and the changes which should be made in the organization of the militia to carry out its revised roles more effectively and realistically. These recommendations are to be received in late May or early June this year.

Second, a ministerial committee on the Royal Canadian naval reserve was authorized in January, and its recommendations have been received. Resulting from the committee's recommendations, the following decisions have been made. Two reserve divisions, H.M.C.S. *Malahat* and H.M.C.S. *Scotian*, on the west and east coasts respectively, will be retained. H.M.C.S. *Chatham* at Prince Rupert and the

two reserve air squadrons, one in Toronto and the other in Victoria, will be paid off. The following divisions, H.M.C.S. *Nonsuch*, *Queen*, *Prevost* and the tender *Kitchener* have been inactivated but will not be paid off pending receipt and study of the Suttie commission report.

Third, the ministerial committee on the R.C.A.F. auxiliary, also authorized in January, has submitted its recommendations and the following decisions have been made. All reserve technical training units and medical units have been disbanded. In addition, by the end of March the four auxiliary wing headquarters and their associated squadrons located at Victoria, Calgary, Saskatoon and Hamilton will have been inactivated, but actual disbandment will be held in abeyance until the Suttie commission has reported.

The auxiliary wing headquarters and their associated squadrons at Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal will be maintained, as was announced in December by the Minister of National Defence. The role of these remaining R.C.A.F. auxiliary squadrons is being reviewed to determine the most effective manner in which they may be employed.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the answer is a general one. Now I ask the minister, what about the militia units in Saskatoon? What is going to be done in this regard? Is there not some way in which the minister could continue those militia units that go back many, many years, particularly in view of the special request for consideration which comes to us from a fellow member under circumstances that I am sure should receive the consideration of the government?

**Mr. Cardin:** Mr. Speaker, I think all hon. members of the house are very much appreciative of the role that has been played by the militia in the past and the important role it must play in the future. However, as I mentioned before, the Suttie commission is made up of people who are very well versed in the militia and who are also businessmen. They are now making very thorough studies of the militia problem, and I am quite sure all the representations which the Leader of the Opposition has made will be taken into consideration.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** May I add a word to that reply, Mr. Speaker, and ask the right hon. gentleman, when he is sending that information on to our colleague in Saskatoon, to tell him that he is very much in the minds of all hon. members of the house as he is putting up such a courageous fight to regain his health, and we wish him success.