

Supply—External Affairs

Mr. Hellyer: I would recommend to my right hon. friend—

The Chairman: Will both hon. gentlemen sit down, please? There is no point of privilege. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This minister is very touchy. He is rising on a question of privilege to let the House of Commons know what the chief of the general staff meant when he said what he said, but the minister wants to interpret the way in which he said it and delude parliament.

Mr. Hellyer: On a question of privilege, Mr. Chairman, I resent, on behalf of General Allard and the officers of the armed forces, this insinuation which reflects on them in the House of Commons where they are not able to defend themselves. The right hon. gentleman should do the general the courtesy of reading what he said and not what the newspaper reports said.

The Chairman: Order, please. I bring to the attention of the committee citation 105 at page 96 of Beauchesne's fourth edition:

A dispute arising between two honourable members as to allegations of facts hardly fulfils the conditions of a privilege question—

I recognize the right hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, that rule is known to all members of the house, even to the hon. gentleman, but he is very touchy on this matter. He deceived parliament and now he is trying to find an alibi. But U Thant told the truth and said that the principal objective was a peace keeping force. I would like to hear the minister make a speech on this subject—

Mr. Hellyer: I will.

Mr. Diefenbaker: —written by himself, and have his explanation of what took place. He is going to have every opportunity today. The chief of the general staff let the cat out of the bag, and U Thant made sure the bag would never be closed again.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I can understand why the minister is so touchy. You can just see the new uniform. The three armed forces of Canada are going to have jolly little green jumpers. The minister feels a sense of paternity and when any question is raised about

this he feels hurt. I want to say to him that I can understand his sensibilities. This is part of the discussion of foreign affairs because foreign affairs are only effective with a defence policy that is effective.

Mr. Hellyer: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: What we have done, if U Thant is right and General Allard is right, is that we have provided for a force for international use as the principal objective and we have left the defence of Canada in the hands of the United States of America.

Mr. Hellyer: Nonsense.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Now, sir, I would like to hear what the Secretary of State for External Affairs has to say regarding the international force. The Minister of National Defence built his policy on sand and Nasser brushed it away.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

• (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Hellyer: This is one of the worst speeches I have ever heard in this house.

Mr. Starr: Do you not listen to your own speeches?

The Chairman: Order. I understand there was some understanding that the Secretary of State for External Affairs would participate in the debate next.

An hon. Member: He is not here.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Chairman, I think we should wait a moment. All of us realize there are responsibilities resting on the minister which have taken him out of the house in the same way the Prime Minister was taken out of the house. Every consideration must be given in view of the necessity of both these gentlemen being able to carry out their responsibilities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is present, willing and anxious to speak at this stage in the debate. I would gladly yield to him, if that is the situation.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Chairman, I thank my hon. friend but the Prime Minister opened the debate. He has been followed by the Leader of the Opposition, and in all fairness I think my hon. friend ought to have a chance.