

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

recognition to the Vatican. I wonder whether Your Honour would call this so that we might determine whether there is any real good reason not to proceed with the motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member inviting the Chair to call the notice of motion?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I would enjoy that, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that this notice of motion be allowed to stand. It requires inquiry from all aspects of government and obviously this is not yet completed.

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****NATIONAL DEFENCE****A.B.M. PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT AS TO AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES ON ACCEPTANCE**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and give him an opportunity to make some of the answers he is anxious to give to the house. I would ask him whether there was an agreement between the government of Canada and the United States regarding the Sentinel A.B.M. system. If there was not an agreement, was there in fact acceptance by Canada of the United States going ahead with the Sentinel system or was any protest filed with the United States regarding the Sentinel system.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there was neither agreement nor acceptance by the government of Canada concerning the Sentinel system. As the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) and I have all stated in this house on different occasions, the United States has a working arrangement under which it does keep us informed in a general way of its progress in continental defence.

The United States government has from time to time given us information regarding the Sentinel system. They at no time sought our agreement to their intention to pursue the implementation of that system nor did we give them any such agreement.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister to answer the latter part of my question. Did Canada at any time protest

against the United States planning to proceed with the Sentinel system.

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker; we did not at any time protest against the plan of the United States to progress with that system. It was entirely within their own territory and within their own jurisdiction.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Could the Prime Minister tell the house and the country when we may expect a definite statement of position by his government either in acceptance of or the taking of a position against the decision of the President of the United States to proceed with the Safeguard A.B.M. system.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Not immediately, Mr. Speaker. It will now be part of the input into our review of defence and foreign policy. We will still proceed with our plan to take a position on NATO and other aspects of foreign policy. When we reach the point where we will want to make an announcement of a policy in respect of NORAD we will then go on to state our position on the A.B.M. system. I do not think it will be a matter of days or even weeks. I do not think the urgency for the government to take a position on it can be stated in terms of days or weeks. I believe the Leader of the Opposition knows that the plan as announced by the United States with regard to two sites will only become operational, if it ever does, around 1973. This gives us, as I say, more than a few days or weeks to take our position.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, it rather sounds as if the Prime Minister is hoping everybody in Canada will forget about this matter. Will the Prime Minister say what attitude he took in Washington concerning Canada's right to be consulted on a matter such as the Safeguard A.B.M. system. Did the Prime Minister insist upon the right of Canada to be consulted, or did he take the stand he took in this house last week that Canada has no right to expect to be consulted unless it is prepared to participate in the A.B.M. system.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Mr. Speaker, in the matter of continental defence I repeat what I said in the answer to the first question: there is a continued consultation for the imparting of information to Canada on what the United States is proceeding with in general terms. Whether the United States should consult with Canada before deciding to proceed with a particular form of continental defence within its own territory is a question I did not raise with the President.