

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of National Defence. In reply to an earlier question concerning the Rivers air base the minister stated that he hoped to be able to announce some good news by the end of May. Is the minister in a position to announce this good news concerning the expanded role of this base?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I said at the time that I hoped to be able to announce the news, meaning the decision, not necessarily good news. The fact that I have not announced the news yet may be a good sign.

I know that, as in the past, I am again in default on this particular subject, but this is because of the fact that I am trying as best I can, grasping at all possibilities and trying to explore all measures in order to achieve what the hon. member desires, which is the maintenance of the base. I am now depending on two reports which I have not yet received, and it is the reports that are delayed, not my answer. I was expecting the last one on May 25, but I have not received it yet.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member is rising on a supplementary but he will have noticed that a number of supplementaries were refused. I apologize to hon. members but I have tried my best to recognize as many members as I could. Perhaps we will continue our efforts tomorrow. Orders of the day.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. La Salle:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Joliette on a point of order.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, as the oral question period is rather short and as the members of the Mouvement de libération du taxi in Montreal held new demonstrations last night, asking for the immediate publication of a report on the taxi situation which was to be submitted in April, I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport if such a report will be tabled soon?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest to the hon. member to make direct representations to the minister. He can easily get in touch with him.

If the question period seemed short to him it always seems long to the Chair.

Is the hon. member for South Western Nova raising a point of order?

**Mr. Comeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am taking the first opportunity to rise on a question of privilege.

I notice that the Minister of Finance is not in the House at present. My question of privilege is related to an answer made yesterday by the minister to a question I asked him on May 19.

[*English*]

This is a matter that came up yesterday, Mr. Speaker, when I was not here. On May 19 I asked the Minister of Finance whether the officers in his department would be controlling more stringently importation of textiles into this country, and as reported at page 7065 of *Hansard* the minister replied:

I can assure the hon. member that my experience has been that these regulations have been enforced to the full. Where there have been allegations that they have not been enforced, it has often been because individual firms in Canada have not provided evidence of dumping so that the dumping could be investigated by the Department of National Revenue.

Yesterday the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce made a statement to the House. I must say the statement was a welcome one and I congratulate him for announcing a surtax on the import of woven shirts. I should like to quote something that is relevant to my question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hope the hon. member is coming to his question of privilege. Nothing that he has said yet resembles very much a question of privilege. I invite him to get to his point as quickly as possible.

**Mr. Comeau:** Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises out of conflicting statements made by two ministers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I thank the hon. member for telling me immediately what he wants to do. If he thinks that he can raise as a question of privilege conflicting statements between ministers, I must advise him right now that there are many precedents that would indicate that this cannot be the basis of a question of privilege.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Monteith:** There are plenty of conflicting statements from this government.