

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member the assurance that the government is watching this thing closely.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

Could the minister make shot-guns available for those who would go witch-hunting?

[English]

NATO—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN CANADIAN COMMITMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for both the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of National Defence. Does Canada propose at the NATO ministerial meeting to be held next week to request any changes in its commitments under or contributions to NATO?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Not in its commitments, Mr. Speaker. We will be discussing force levels with other countries.

Mr. Harkness: May I ask a supplementary question. Is the minister able to give any indication to the house of what change Canada may be asking so far as our force goals are concerned?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): As my hon. friend knows, and as I think he said on one occasion when he was asked a similar question, until this matter has been discussed with members of the alliance it is not possible at this stage to give an indication.

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF PROPOSED REDUCTIONS IN ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. When he takes part in the budget debate tomorrow, as he has stated it is his intention to do, does he intend to outline in detail the proposed reductions in the 1967-68 estimates?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): My hon. friend will have to wait until I speak tomorrow night.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister not aware of the reply given to me by the Minister of Finance to a question I put to him in the house on November 15?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now starting an argument.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the light of the fact that the Minister of Finance did assure the house that the Minister of National Revenue would give these details, is he not perhaps more disposed now to give us the assurance asked for by the hon. member for Northumberland?

Mr. Benson: I will be pleased to give details tomorrow night.

REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION FOR CANADIAN RECIPIENTS OF U.K. PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Finance. I am asking this question at the request of two charming widows who represent a number of Canadian citizens who are in receipt of pensions from the British government and who find themselves suffering from the most recent devaluation of the pound. My question is, is there any legislation or are there any regulations that permit the government to compensate Canadian citizens who are in receipt of old age or disability pensions from the British government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I should like to reply to the charming member for Kootenay West by saying that I will take the question as notice and discuss it with my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs.

NATIONAL CAPITAL

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question I should like to ask the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as the minister reporting for the national capital area. Can the minister indicate today the approximate date it is intended to set up a parliamentary committee on the national capital area?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Yes, Mr. Speaker; early next year.