

*Inquiries of the Ministry**(Text):*

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before the parliamentary secretary proceeds perhaps he would indicate why he has not raised this matter earlier. I take it that his question of privilege arises out of something said in the house on Monday, March 27. Was the hon. member not here then, and had it not come to his attention before now?

(Translation):

Mr. English: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege because, according to the statement of the hon. member for Laurier, there was a dismissal for political reasons, which affects me—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. English: —because it happened in my constituency of Gaspé. I would like to quote part of what was said, Mr. Speaker, and you will see that I am really affected in this matter.

I quote:

Mr. Chairman, I should like to deal with a subject coming under item 167 which deals not only with the civil service commission but with the Department of Transport as well. I am going to try and be as brief as possible in order not to delay this item.

I have here a letter from Rivière-Madeleine. A man named Josephat Ste. Croix, assistant lightkeeper on Anticosti island, has been laid off.

That man was not on Anticosti island, but in Gaspé. I must put the facts right.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member will have to come to the point if he wants to continue. If there is a serious reflection on his activities giving rise to a question of privilege, and which stems from the statement made by the hon. member for Laurier on Monday, perhaps he would indicate what reflection on his conduct there is which warrants the time of the house being taken now, at this late date.

(Translation):

Mr. English: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Laurier has suggested to the house that it was purely a political dismissal, and even in today's issue of *La Presse*, we find this:

Lightkeeper fired for political reasons.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to state to the house that there were no politics involved, and I feel I have the right to inform the house in this respect.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is perhaps stretching things to find that it refers to him, because it seems to me what was said was a general statement that there had been political considerations. However, the hon. member has given the assurance he

[Mr. English.]

intended to give to the house, and I expect the matter can be considered to be disposed of.

*(Translation):***HISTORICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS****OLD FORT CHAMBLY—CORRESPONDENCE AS TO RESTORATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Johnson (Chambly-Rouville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Could the minister inform the house whether he recently received from the "Société Historique de la Vallée du Richelieu" or from its chairman, Mr. Leo Leblanc, letters, requests or other representations relating to the restoration of the old fort of Chambly?

(Text):

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. I have had an opportunity to check into the matter. There have been no representations concerning the restoration of old Fort Chambly from "La société historique de la vallée du Richelieu", nor from the chairman of that organization.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE REALIGNMENT OF POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I should like to direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Following President Kennedy's announcement yesterday of a realignment of the defence policy of the United States, will the minister say whether we can expect a realignment of the defence policy of this country to bring it into conformity with the real situation existing in the world today?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Trinity is quite familiar with the course that has been followed by the Department of National Defence. May I also remind the hon. member that Canada is a sovereign nation and makes its own decisions without being influenced by other nations.

Mr. Hellyer: Since when?

SUPPLY

The house is committee of supply, Mr. Rea in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**Mutual aid—**

708. Contributions to infrastructure and military costs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—further amount required, \$740,000.