

Inquiries of the Ministry

should have taken place in this city which cost the life of a respected member of the diplomatic corps. The house will wish to join with me in extending the sincerest sympathy to the bereaved family. I am informed that a complete investigation is under way into this crime, but I fully realize that no punishment can repair the grievous loss of this young man's life or erase the deep shock which all of us have felt at this tragedy.

We have not yet received the text of what Mr. Nehru is alleged to have said in the Indian parliament, and I would not wish to comment simply on the basis of a radio report. However, as the hon. member for Essex East knows, diplomatic missions in Ottawa, like the general public, are protected by the law and order which is assured for all in this city in the normal way by the competent local authorities. It is not our practice to provide any additional security unless such protection is requested by the foreign mission itself or there is reason to believe it is needed. Hon. members will, of course, appreciate that security within the precincts of any diplomatic mission is naturally a matter for the mission itself to arrange and is not the responsibility of any Canadian authorities.

We feel very deeply about this unfortunate incident, and I do not think there is anything further that I can say at the present time.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate this group with the condolences expressed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on account of this most unfortunate and regrettable event. I would like to ask him whether he is aware of the fact that the protection staff were very concerned about this person and had on a number of occasions warned various secretaries and members about this man being in the building.

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, so far as the Department of External Affairs is concerned, we had absolutely no information about this man being a danger in the community. What knowledge there may have been elsewhere I am not in a position to say.

CUBA—ALLEGED RECRUITING AND ARMING
OF CANADIANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the statement by Mr. Kevin Griffin, while being interviewed on a television news broadcast last evening over CJOH, that he was one of 100 Canadians from the maritimes who had volunteered to fight against the government of Cuba as a mercenary at a salary

[Mr. Green.]

of \$800 a month, still unpaid, and further that they were equipped with Canadian army issue rifles, Bren guns and grenades, would the minister inform the house whether he has any knowledge of this recruiting on behalf of the Cuban counter-revolutionary army and of the equipping of these men with Canadian rifles, Bren guns and grenades, which Mr. Griffin indicated may have been obtained from a Canadian army source? Has the minister any comments to make with respect to this statement, which is causing serious concern to many people? I might say that my telephone has been ringing almost continuously all morning.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to this question may I say we have no knowledge of the kinds of activities which apparently were described by this person on television last night. My understanding is that he did not suggest he had been recruited in Canada. The policy of the Canadian government has been and is not to tolerate the recruiting of Canadian citizens by foreign agents on Canadian soil. As hon. members know, no export of military equipment to the Caribbean region has been authorized since July of 1959.

Mr. Herridge: I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence a supplementary question based on my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister enlighten the house further with respect to the statements made by this person on television?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. The man in question, Griffin, served in the Canadian navy for some time, from which he was released because of a pulhems S-5 rating. Subsequently he enlisted in the Canadian army under his brother's name and served in the army from January, 1957 to July, 1957. His proper name finally became known and he was released, again with an S-5 pulhems profile.

With regard to the statement which I am told he made on television last night that Canadian .303 rifles, Bren guns and Sten guns stolen from Camp Gagetown were issued to these people alleged to have been recruited in Canada, I am informed there have never been any .303 rifles, Bren guns or Sten guns issued at Camp Gagetown. From the time the camp opened the new rifle was issued there. There have been no thefts at Camp Gagetown since January 1 of 1960, except for one pistol.