

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Well, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to search my own files. I do not think I need to go beyond that. As far as I know, labour matters at A. V. Roe are handled by the province. I do not know of any labour agreement with the federal government.

ALLEGED IMPORTATION OF UNITED STATES  
WELDERS INTO BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Is the minister yet in a position to give any information to the house on the question of the issuance of permits to welders to enter the province of British Columbia to work on the pipe line there?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Yes, sir, I intended to speak to the hon. gentleman privately about this matter. We have had an interim report from Vancouver and I am expecting a more detailed report in the current mail. It does appear that the actual union which is the bargaining agent for these welders has no complaint whatsoever and that another association which is not the union in question has made some complaints. These complaints have been investigated and in the main they appear to be almost entirely without foundation. However, it has been the practice of employers to ask welders to go to the place where the work is to be done in order to have their tests and that has put them to some inconvenience. I am told arrangements have now been made to have the tests conducted in Vancouver.

**Mr. Winch:** May I ask a supplementary question. Will the minister advise the house when he is in receipt of the detailed report to which he referred?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I shall be glad to speak to the hon. gentleman about it as soon as it is received.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ICELAND—INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL  
OF UNITED STATES FORCES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** I should like to direct a question to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, and to ask him whether he is in a position to make any observation on what the effect will be on North American defence should Iceland decide to cause United States troops there under the NATO agreement to withdraw? Would he also say what representa-

[Mr. Barnett.]

tions, if any, Canada by reason of its peculiarly friendly attitude to Iceland, is making in order to warn of the serious danger to North American defence should the course indeed be followed of causing NATO troops to withdraw from Iceland, rendering that country more or less vulnerable to communist attack?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs):** My hon. friend, I am sure, will appreciate the great importance of this matter and he will not expect me to deal with every aspect of his question. The defence agreement between Iceland and the United States which provides for the stationing of United States forces was concluded in 1951 as a result of a request from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I should have said at the outset that I am grateful to my hon. friend for having given me notice of his question, and having given me an opportunity thereby of discussing this matter with those whose job it is day to day to deal with this particular situation.

The secretary of state for the United States has recently stated:

The United States has bases in Iceland, not in its own right but acting as an agent for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I may say it is a question in which Canada and other NATO countries have a definite interest. The treaty provides that either the United States or Iceland may, at any time, on notification to the other government, request the NATO council to review the continued necessity for the facilities and their utilization, and to make recommendations to the two governments concerning the continuation of this agreement. If, six months after the review by the council, no understanding is reached between the two governments, either government may at any time give notice of its intention to terminate the agreement, which will cease to be in force 12 months from the date of such notice.

The resolution passed by the parliament of Iceland before the recent elections in that country, which called for a revision of the defence agreement, referred specifically to the appropriate article in the agreement, and at the same time reaffirmed the decision and the intention of Iceland to support NATO.

The Canadian government hopes that if a new Icelandic government should decide to ask for a revision of the defence treaty, as envisaged in the resolution of the parliament of Iceland, it will be possible to reach a compromise satisfactory to Iceland and all of the NATO partners.

We cannot know, however, what Iceland's policy will be toward the defence agreement