

McDougall's case of the circumstances that surrounded the case of Mr. Phelps?

Mr. Jim Peterson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that, according to our information, Mr. Patrick McDougall has never been an employee or an executive of Vickers and Benson, and therefore his question is ill-founded if that is the situation.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

APPROVAL OF NATO PLANS

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. For the first time since World War II, the government of the United States has indicated that it would be prepared to initiate a nuclear attack.

In view of the statement made yesterday by the U.S. Secretary of State that the U.S. and its allies have plans which include using nuclear armaments against any conventional attack from the Soviets, can the minister indicate whether the Government of Canada, as a member of NATO, has approved of such plans?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, it is true that this country is part of NATO. All I can do is tell the hon. member what was decided at the last meeting of NATO ministers at Gleneagles two weeks ago. I have before me a copy of the communiqué relevant to the whole discussion, and it has been made public. It was reaffirmed then that the strategy of deterrence is the strategy of NATO—deterrence to prevent war. At the same time we recognized that the Soviet nuclear power had worsened, so in light of this the emphasis was on the need to move ahead with the implementation of both facets of the NATO decision. That means modernization of the credible deterrence of NATO at the same time that we are trying our best to control arms and prevent the proliferation of arms.

CANADIAN POSITION ON USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, I find it amazing that a government that speaks of suffocating nuclear weapons from the face of the earth would join in a policy that calls for a first strike with nuclear weapons.

Will the minister, on behalf of the Government of Canada, tell the United States government that Canada is against initiating the use of nuclear weapons in any so-called conventional military conflict since even a nuclear weapon used for supposedly demonstrative purposes will lead to a nuclear holocaust throughout the world?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I should like to tell the hon. member that

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one has to be very realistic when talking about such subjects. I think every member of the House in whatever party is against nuclear war and, indeed, against any kind of war. It is very easy to say that we should have no war, but the most important thing is to try to find a way to prevent war. That is exactly what NATO is doing. I think that for the last 35 years NATO has been the most efficient peace movement in existence. We have not had any nuclear war for the last 35 years, and I hope we will never have one.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sargeant: Madam Speaker, I would point out to the minister that the realism in this case is that all of us will fry if there is a nuclear war.

● (1425)

DEMONSTRATIONS OPPOSING UNITED STATES POLICY

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my further supplementary question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister aware that next Wednesday, on Remembrance Day, over 100 American universities are planning demonstrations to join the hundreds of thousands of Europeans who have already taken to the streets to protest the madness of this new American policy, and does the minister not think that Canada, which has done so well as a peace seeker in the past, should also join in protesting this very real threat to world peace?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I understood the hon. gentleman to say that this was a demonstration of citizens, not of governments. I wonder why he thinks our government should be involved with groups of citizens in other countries. I remind him that his party's rejection of NATO is not shared by other members of this house nor by the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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VIA RAIL

REGISTRATION OF ORDER IN COUNCIL CANCELLING PASSENGER SERVICES

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. It arises out of the question related to the order in council which proposes to reduce rail passenger service in this country by 20 per cent. Last week, on October 28, the Minister of Transport stated in the House that the order in council did not need to be registered and that, if there was any doubt about it, he would pass a new one. Just this past Tuesday the minister undertook to register Order in Council P.C. 1981-2171, 88 days after it was issued. This would seem to violate Section 9 of the Statutory Instruments Act, which calls for registration to come within seven days of the order being issued.