

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me the hon. member should agree that this question is much too large in context for a question on orders of the day.

An hon. Member: The question is too large for the minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister has a prepared statement in answer to the question.

Mr. Speaker: The minister may want to revert to motions, but for the moment I recognize the hon. member for Oxford.

SUGGESTED JOINT MEETING OF DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the observations made by General Allard before the defence committee yesterday, which observations involve the foreign policy of the country, would the minister recommend to his colleagues in cabinet that in the immediate future the defence committee be joined by the house committee on external affairs in a joint meeting to study the armed services unification bill?

[Later:]

Mr. Nesbitt: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. A few minutes ago I addressed a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning a joint meeting of the defence and external affairs committees. I believe, Your Honour, that the Secretary of State for External Affairs was just extricating himself from his seat when Your Honour gave the floor to another member. I was wondering if the minister might have a chance to reply.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if it had not been for the running interference immediately opposite I would have been able to deal with the question right away. The external affairs committee may meet at any time, and I think this type of question could be dealt with in that committee. However, I see no reason for the suggestion made by my hon. friend.

Inquiries of the Ministry

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIBUTE TO WELSH PEOPLE ON ST. DAVID'S DAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. N. Ormiston (Melville): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege. In the unavoidable absence of the member for Shelburne-Yarmouth-Clare, who I understand is of Welsh ancestry, may I take the opportunity to bring to the attention of the house the importance of March 1, the day when Welshmen and those of Welsh ancestry honour their patron saint, St. David. The contribution of the Welsh people is well known, especially in the field of arts and music. So may I say to those lovers of the land of the leek, "I echyd da".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSED SURCHARGES ON CARGOES TO VANCOUVER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if he has anything to report on his negotiations with regard to the surcharges on freight entering the port of Vancouver proposed by the shipping conferences of Japan and San Francisco, which surcharges were to become effective today?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): In the case of San Francisco I understand that the surcharges will not apply. The proposed arrangement has been cancelled. The same applies for Hong Kong. In so far as Tokyo is concerned, the date of application has been deferred until March 17 and we are hopeful it too will be cancelled.

Mr. Fulton: Since the date of March 17 has been mentioned will the minister give it the "good old Irish" in his negotiation, to assure the outcome?

Mr. Winters: One way or the other.

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—REQUEST THAT MANUFACTURERS REDUCE PRICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry. In view of the great decrease in car sales in Canada and the large number of