

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

flights in question. Indeed, I would like to point out the fact that apparently the course now being followed was the course followed by the previous government, namely that permission was at all times secured.

If any further elucidation is required in this connection I would suggest to the hon. member that he await the presence of the Minister of National Defence, so that if there is any question whatsoever that has not been answered the minister who is in charge will be able to answer it in detail. In making that suggestion I do, however, point out once more that the course being followed today in regard to the need for permission to be secured is unchanged from the course followed by the previous government—I believe properly.

[Later:]

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** May I ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. I am concerned about the reply I received yesterday and the answer the hon. member for Coast-Capilano received a few moments ago. I understand that there are approximately 1,000 planes of the strategic air command that are airborne. Is the minister informing the country that none of these planes are above Canadian territory; and if they are above Canadian territory, that in case of an emergency in order to deliver a knockout blow they would have to return to their bases to pick up nuclear weapons because they only have slingshots?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I understood from the answer given by the Prime Minister earlier that he requested hon. members not to pursue this matter until the responsible minister is available. I take it, therefore, that the answers on that subject are complete for today.

REQUEST FOR SETTING UP OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question, particularly in view of the Prime Minister's last statement that the situation is unchanged from that which existed under the previous government. I know I cannot suggest that we set up a defence committee at this session. May I say to the Prime Minister that I think the policy advocated by his party when in opposition should be carried out and a defence committee should be set up. May I ask whether the government has this in mind, because the defence department is one which is so veiled in secrecy, and has been through the years, that neither

this house nor the country knows precisely what the defence department is doing in any particular field.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think at the moment the question is a hypothetical one because, as the hon. member states, there is no question of the committee being set up at this session. When the next session is called certainly the representation made by the hon. member, since it is in keeping with views expressed in all parts of the house, will receive immediate attention.

AGRICULTURE

EGGS—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO SUPPORT PRICE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, this question is quite a comedown from nuclear weapons being carried over our country today, but sometimes I think it is more important. I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he received recently a communication from the president of the Saskatchewan poultry association, pointing out to him the collapse of egg prices within that province? If so, what action does his department propose to take to see that the price of all grades of eggs is supported at a level which will ensure the egg producers a fair return for eggs?

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received a telegram from the Saskatchewan co-operative in connection with eggs, and I took immediate steps which I hope will ensure that the egg producers in the prairie provinces will receive the same amount as they received in the past, namely 30 cents a dozen to them under the 38-cent support price, starting at the beginning of next week.

[Later:]

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Melville):** Mr. Speaker, in view of some opinions that have been expressed as the result of an answer given yesterday, might I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether or not it is correct to presume from the answer given that eggs will be purchased by the agricultural prices support board in Toronto on the basis of 38 cents, grade A large?

**Mr. Harkness:** Eggs have been purchased on that basis whenever they have been offered. There has been no cessation of the purchase of grade A large eggs at 38 cents in any part of the country. The difficulty which has arisen in western Canada is that the produce people apparently felt that the spread of 8 cents