

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NUMBER OF INFORMATION OFFICERS IN DEPARTMENT

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, having in mind the table presented yesterday indicating that the Department of National Defence has no less than 71 public information officers on staff, will consideration be given to introducing a measure of youth again in the services?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to be afforded the opportunity of correcting this information. The number of 71 includes all personnel working in the branch and information officers would make up about half that number.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

MAINTENANCE OF EFFECTIVE PRESENCE IN ARCTIC

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether, apart from the intention to patrol the Arctic waters this summer, the government contemplates any measures extending beyond this summer to maintain an effective Canadian presence in the Arctic?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I am gratified to note that the Leader of the Opposition approves the policy of the government which is to extend coverage to maintain Canadian sovereignty all around Canada, including the northern Arctic waters.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I did not express approval or disapproval; I asked a question. The minister is one of a few who try to answer questions and I hope he will not lose that reputation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MEMBERS OF ONTARIO COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to orders of the day I should like to call Your Honour's attention to a distinguished group of parliamentarians in the Speaker's gallery from the Ontario legislature, the members of the special Ontario committee on procedure. They have come to Ottawa—

An hon. Member: They have come to the wrong place.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): —to see how we carry out the official procedures of this house.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENT FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND SUMMER GAMES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before you call orders of the day I should like to ask a question of the President of the Privy Council. I might say it is very difficult to get any information out of him in respect of both government plans and the business of the house. Will he consider working out a schedule for all private members on the government side which will enable them to discharge their responsibilities in the house and also spend some time at the first Canada summer games in Halifax between August 16 and August 25?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I might say that if the hon. gentleman and his colleagues are prepared to withdraw the filibuster they are now conducting we could carry out that suggestion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

SUGGESTED DEBATE ON COLLAPSE OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, now that we are discussing procedures and house business I wonder whether I might put a question to the government house leader. There has been expressed on several occasions, notably today, a desire on the part of many members to have a discussion of the collapse of the International Grains Arrangement. Would the government house leader consider trying to ascertain, through the usual channels, whether arrangements could be made for a day to debate this issue? I have no authority to speak for all the opposition parties but I imagine we could agree to the use of one of the two days still standing to us as opposition allotted days. Perhaps arrangements could be made to have such a discussion later this week or one day next week.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will undertake, as soon as the procedural changes have