

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DRAFT DODGERS FROM U.S. FORCES SEEKING
ASYLUM IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Have there been any cases of young Americans who have refused to serve in the United States forces in Viet Nam having come to Canada and asked for political asylum on that ground? If there have been such cases, has political asylum been granted?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I know of no such case, Mr. Speaker.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister look this up, because it has been advertised in the press over and over again that there is a group in British Columbia, and I think one in Ontario, whose object it is to welcome draft dodgers? Will the minister find out why these people, not being willing to assume the responsibilities of their own citizenship, should be welcomed as good citizens here?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I will be very glad to look into the matter, Mr. Speaker. I doubt very much whether there is any foundation for the original question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister, of course, has been abroad engaged in audacious proceedings, and has not been reading the press.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I have generally found there a greater and more valuable foundation for questions asked in the house, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That does not apply to your answers.

RHODESIA—TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
SMITH AND PRIME MINISTER WILSON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Could the minister tell us whether he has received any report from the important conference taking place between Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Great Britain and Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): According to our knowledge of the timetable there has been one meeting between Prime Minister Wilson and Mr. Smith. The Prime Minister and I met this morning with Mr. Garner of the Commonwealth Relations Office, but we are not yet in a position to report on the first day's conversations.

[Translation]

WATER RESOURCES

POLLUTION OF CANADIAN WATERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I would also like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the seriousness of the problem raised by water pollution in several of our rivers, will the minister tell us if the government intends to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the resolutions of the Montreal conference on pollution in our environment are now being brought together. A meeting of the resource ministers council will follow to study those resolutions and, personally, I hope that additional measures will then be taken to solve the problem described by the hon. member.

Mr. Ricard: I would like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

When does the hon. minister expect to receive the report of the survey on this question of water pollution?

Mr. Pepin: This report is being drawn up at present, and I understand it will be ready at the end of December or early in January.

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF OPTOMETRIC SERVICES FROM MEASURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of his indication yesterday that he intends to proceed with an amendment having to do with the exclusion of certain optometric services from Bill C-227, would he