

Inquiries of the Ministry

14 days in prison for supplying liquor to a minor in the Delta area of the Northwest Territories. I believe the territorial circuit court reversed the sentence, but this young man was ordered out of the territory. Can the Prime Minister verify and comment on this?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, I cannot, but I will make inquiries.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPORTED U.S. INTENTION TO INCREASE TAX
ON CANADIAN INVESTMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if he can report to the house or comment upon a statement from Washington today to the effect that congress is considering an increase in the withholding tax on Canadian investments from 15 per cent to 30 per cent?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I am sure the hon. gentleman and the house will be pleased to know the exemptions that have hitherto been applied to Canada will remain in existence.

[Later:]

Mr. Winkler: So that there will not be an error in the record, Mr. Speaker, earlier I asked the Minister of Finance a question about an announcement from Washington. I used the term "withholding tax" but I should have used the term "equalization tax". The answer, as I understand it, applied to the equalization tax.

**NORTH VIET NAM—SUPPLYING OF MISSILES
BY SOVIET UNION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the minister has told us he has made Canada's position known to the United States government with respect to the cessation of the bombing of North Viet Nam, has the minister made known to the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Canada's position with respect to the Soviet union supplying missiles and other weapons in North Viet Nam for the purpose of destroying United States aircraft? I ask this question because of the position of the government of the Soviet Union as co-chairman of the Geneva conference, and the consequent relationship to

[Mr. Thompson.]

Canada's position as one of the three members of the international control commission on Viet Nam.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I did not hear all of the question. I will study it and give an answer tomorrow.

Mr. Nesbitt: May I ask a supplementary question for the minister's consideration at the same time. Has the government established a position with respect to supplying missiles and other arms by the Soviet union to North Viet Nam?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes, Mr. Speaker, but this is a very important matter and I want to give it careful consideration.

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ASSISTANCE
TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker, strictly for the purpose of eliciting information, as usual. On January 16, as recorded on page 11824 of *Hansard*, the minister mentioned the meeting to be held at Saint Lucia later this month to discuss a certain course of assistance to be given by Canada to the Caribbean countries. In view of the new semi-independent status of several of the islands of the West Indies, and their need for substantial trade and economic assistance, will the minister make a statement tomorrow and inform the house of Canada's plans to co-operate with our friendly neighbours in the Caribbean?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): My hon. friend has not been keeping up with the activities of the government. The statement which he asks to be made tomorrow was made by the Prime Minister and my colleagues who were meeting with the Commonwealth Caribbean countries last July in Ottawa.

Mr. Churchill: I should like to bring the minister into the twentieth century. I am talking about a meeting to be held at the end of January, which is not far away. Would he tell us immediately about that meeting, the plans for co-operation, and what Canada's suggestions are for assisting our friendly neighbours in the Caribbean?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That, Mr. Speaker, is a rather constructive question to which I