

Inquiries of the Ministry

which was shown on last night's C.B.C. television news of members of the international control commission being rebuffed in their attempts to gain access to North Viet Nam via a bridge represent the "channel to the north" that the minister talks of when discussing Canada's role on the commission?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my only reply to that question is that whenever the Canadian member on the commission wishes to go to Hanoi this access is extended to him at once. Mr. Moore was indeed there on January 6 for 11 days, and there will be another visit to Hanoi shortly.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of this most recent information that has been made available I wonder whether the minister would reconsider allowing Victor Moore when he returns to Canada to appear before the external affairs committee so the members of this committee can be informed of the viability of the I.C.C. at the present time.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I have given consideration to this suggestion which the hon. member made in a question the other day. I do not think, in view of the nature of Mr. Moore's recent assignment, or that of his successor, that this would be a helpful way to reach the objective the Canadian government and the Canadian people have in mind.

Mr. Douglas: Why not?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): For the simple reason that there is too much public discussion about this matter. If we want to bring the war to an end I think it is time we showed more prudence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Churchill: We thought it was Hellyer who was the dictator.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and arises out of his answer to the question put by the hon. member for Prince. Does the minister feel that the appearance of Mr. Moore before the external affairs committee, either in camera or otherwise, would be of no benefit to the members of the committee, and that their knowledge of external affairs and Canada's foreign relationships would be so primitive, as suggested by the Minister of

[Mr. Fairweather.]

National Defence, that the experience would not add to this knowledge of foreign policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think the question is in order.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, may I answer the question?

Mr. Speaker: If the house allows the minister to reply to the question. However, I suggest it is not a question but argument.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I can very well understand—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously the minister has not unanimous agreement to reply to the alleged question.

Mr. Churchill: I have a question—

Mr. Speaker: The question was disallowed. There can not be a supplementary question.

PROPOSED TRIP BY PRIME MINISTER'S
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs that I am sure he will like to answer. I ask about the proposed world junket that his department is arranging for the Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary. Is the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Matheson) being sent on a public expense tour because he prefers the Minister of National Defence to the Secretary of State for External Affairs as a future prime minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is not accepted. It is not necessary for me to say that it is at least hypothetical.

[Later:]

Mr. Churchill: I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I understand that the hon. member for Leeds will go on a world wide fact finding tour, visiting Britain and France to investigate trade problems. We realize that the minister needs assistance. Is this the type he desires?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, and I hope it will be allowed. Considering the great interest