

Oral Questions

employees to whom parliament has given the right to strike.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Regardless of the national interest?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I would also indicate that the right hon. gentleman must be well aware of the position of his own party, as I understand it, which is not to deny the right to strike to employees.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, that was not an answer and I rise to ask a supplementary question.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the right hon. gentleman but he should give me the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will now ask the question once more, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's loud protestations all over the country recently in respect of his new ideas on labour relations, will he assure the people of Canada and in particular the farmers that this strike is not going to go on, thus avoiding a further knock-out blow to the western farmers?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that the farmers fully realize how oversimplified the hon. gentleman's remarks can be.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): They realize that a denial of the right to strike to workers does not ensure a resumption of work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is an asinine attempt at an answer.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**REASON FOR EXCLUSION OF YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FROM GRANTS AND LOANS**

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in his capacity as the minister for northern development. Will he explain to this House why residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories have been excluded from the right to apply for DREE grants and loans?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the problem is now under study by my department and that of Regional Eco-

[*Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).*]

nomic Expansion. As soon as we have an announcement to make, I shall be pleased to make it to the House.

[*English*]

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Get a load of the new image.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I see the Minister of National Health and Welfare smiling, at least I have some hair on top.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You have some on top, but nothing inside.

Mr. Nielsen: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Was his special assistant, Paul White, expressing government policy when he announced in Whitehorse—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member can ask the question directly. I would hope the hon. member knows what the practice is—I am not sure about the rules—in respect of questions respecting statements made outside the House. If questions are asked about statements made outside the House by officials, including special assistants, we will get into difficulty. I am sure the hon. member can ask the question directly.

Mr. Nielsen: Forgetting the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, which is already on the record, was the statement made an expression of government policy to the effect that DREE was going to apply and did apply to the two northern territories?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I think it is well known that the government is studying the problem, but it is good to have the views of Yukoners representing both parties.

Mr. Stanfield: What about the third party?

Mr. Nielsen: That does not answer the question.

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[*Translation*]

SPORTS**POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER CANADA-RUSSIA HOCKEY GAMES**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the great interest generated by the Canada-USSR hockey series and the honour which fell upon us, may I ask the minister if he can tell the House whether he is willing to recommend another event of this kind, and if so, whether he will soon make a statement to that effect?