

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as there are prevailing rate employees in departments other than the Department of National Defence I have referred the question to my colleague the President of the Privy Council.

compulsorily retired between now and a year from next May.

PROVISION OF NUCLEAR MISSILES TO CANADIAN FORCES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is the situation unchanged in Canada's defence preparations, namely that no nuclear arms have been provided for the Voodoo planes in Canada, no nuclear missiles for the Honest John battery with the Canadian brigade in Europe, and that most of the Canadian F-104 airplanes in Europe are not equipped with either nuclear or conventional weapons?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have had no notice of this question, but from memory I can say that the Bomarc missiles have been armed; the F-104 squadrons in the strike role—six squadrons, two wings in Germany—are operational; the Voodoo aircraft have not yet been armed with nuclear missiles. I am afraid I cannot give an answer as of this date with respect to the Honest John, although the missiles were not available the last time I made a check.

NEGOTIATIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM NUCLEAR DEFENCE ROLE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what negotiations are in progress with respect to Canada withdrawing entirely from her nuclear role, as promised a year and a half ago by the Prime Minister.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I can answer that question any better—

Mr. Churchill: Any better than you did before—and you didn't answer then.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): —than I answered it some time ago. I would ask my hon. friend to look at the answer I gave several weeks ago.

Mr. Churchill: I did look at that answer, and it was a very evasive one. The minister did not have any notice then, either, and was taken by surprise. I understand there are

REPAIRS TO NAVAL SHIP SOLD TO TORONTO GROUP

On the orders of the day:

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Port Arthur asked on whose authority work was being carried out on the former H.M.C.S. ship *Haida* at Halifax dockyard. The answer, Mr. Speaker, is on the authority of the Minister of National Defence. The work involved the return to the ship of various articles of furniture and equipment, which were removed at the time *Haida* was taken out of service, for the purpose of restoring it to world war II fighting appearance. All items placed on board are surplus to Royal Canadian Navy requirements.

Haida was purchased by a group of public spirited Canadians who intend to maintain the ship as a national monument in the city of Toronto, and the Department of National Defence in these circumstances was happy to lend every possible assistance.

I am informed that the estimated cost of returning the equipment on board *Haida* was in the order of \$1,600.

PENSIONS OF PERMANENT STAFF COMPULSORILY RETIRED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. I would ask him whether it is correct that military personnel on permanent staff—I am referring only to permanent staff individuals—are being asked to retire prior to reaching their normal retirement age; and if so, are they being penalized by being asked to accept reduced pensions as a result?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as has already been announced there will be a number of involuntary retirements in advance of the normal compulsory retirement age. These will be effected during the months that lie ahead. There are special cash benefits to those who are so retired, and in addition the normal penalty in respect of pension benefit has been waived. This will apply to all those who are