

Oral Questions

happened to the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier a trampling of parliamentary democracy, or has the Prime Minister just joined the "old guard" ranks of Liberal cynicism?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is confused. In his first question he referred to an article of some 25 years ago, I guess, or 20 years ago, and it cannot be all that urgent a matter. In the second part of his question, between quotes he indicated that the Member for Ottawa-Vanier had, "raised his voice against a dictator". I was asking the source of that quote. I suspect the Hon. Member has made those quotations up as he makes up a lot of his questions.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: I will be raising a point of privilege, Madam Speaker, at three o'clock. I will read the whole speech. I give you notice now.

Madam Speaker: Order. Order! I really wonder what has come upon the Hon. Member. He has had an answer. The Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

REQUEST THAT PERMISSION BE REFUSED FOR CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister who has stated three to four times in this House in recent weeks, including this afternoon, that he views the Cruise missile matter as serious, yet over the past nine months he has tried to defend his Government's decision to permit U.S. Cruise missile testing in Canada as part of an effort to achieve arms control agreements. But as early as 1974, U.S. military planners, including Admiral Holloway, then Chief of U.S. Naval Operations, argued for the Cruise missile because it could be deployed covertly and thus make any arms control verification meaningless. Given this information, will the Prime Minister now make a commitment to stop fuelling the arms race by refusing to allow Cruise missile testing in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I must point out to the Hon. Member that I do understand the concern shown by himself and by many Canadians on the testing of the Cruise missile in Canada, if that is indeed to happen, and which has not been decided yet. That is a matter which is being negotiated in the form of an umbrella agreement with the United States. I understand the concern. I want to point out, as I did to one of his fellow members of the New Democratic Party the other day, that this is part of our participation in an alliance, and, if we refuse to

take some role in the alliance, we are either hypocrites because we are supposing someone else should take that role, or else we should withdraw from the alliance. I have not heard his party suggest with any unanimity that we withdraw from the alliance.

• (1440)

As to the Cruise itself, I want to point out that one of the reasons why we have followed this policy which we are debating now is that the Cruise, by its very nature, cannot be a first-strike weapon. The Cruise delivery time is two to three hours, depending on where it is launched from. It cannot be a first-strike weapon, it can only be a retaliatory weapon, used in cases where someone else started a nuclear war, or a war that we feel is going to mightily destroy the alliance. That is a basic point. If the Hon. Members were lobbying against the Pershing or something else, I would understand it more because I suppose conceivably it could be a first-strike weapon. But when you are talking of a missile the delivery time of which is three hours, Madam Speaker, I do not see how the Members over there, or anyone in good faith, could suspect that this is one way in which our side wants to start a war.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sargeant: Madam Speaker, I submit that the Prime Minister has become a born-again militarist.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: That will be the frosty Friday.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH CHURCH LEADERS

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, given the Prime Minister's obvious disregard for the damaging impact of Cruise missile deployment on future arms control operations, and given that his mind is so obviously closed on this matter, could he tell the House why he wasted the time of the leaders of Canada's major Christian churches who met with him yesterday for the express purpose of changing his Government's position on Cruise missile testing and participation in MX development?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, they asked to meet me. I do not think it was their assessment that I wasted their time. We had a rational, intelligent discussion. I am sorry the Hon. Member is unable to carry on that kind of discussion. When he calls me a militarist, Madam Speaker—obviously we are a member of an alliance. We are not non-aligned, we are members of NATO. If that makes us militarists, because we are not absolutely neutral, so be it. But then I challenge his Party to get up and say now that they are not militarists in that sense, that they want to get out of NATO.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!