

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Estate Tax Act which were made by the officials of the Department of National Revenue, the Department of Finance and myself to a committee of the other place. I would like to table these in English and in French.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**NATIONAL DEFENCE****NATO—OBJECTIONS TO CANADIAN PROPOSALS AT BRUSSELS CONFERENCE TO REDUCE FORCE IN EUROPE**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Yesterday he indicated to the house that the objections taken to his statement at Brussels related not to the policy itself nor to right of Canada to make its own decisions in this regard. I ask the minister whether he intended to indicate to the house that in fact no objections were taken to the substance of his proposals at Brussels.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): I do not think I ever intended to indicate that, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, I believe I gave a precise answer in which I indicated that the principal objection was to our not conforming exactly to the procedures of consultation.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister mean to indicate to the house that in fact objections were not taken to his proposal that Canada's contribution to NATO would be reduced?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): I never indicated that, Mr. Speaker. It was not my intention at least to indicate that. What I meant to convey was that as long as the negotiations had to start from a base, obviously whatever serves as a base is not considered by the other people with whom we negotiate as a proposal but as a basis of discussion. Therefore we have now to go through the complete process of consultation before we arrive at a solution.

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Minister of National Defence in fact indicate at Brussels the approximate reduction in forces that he was proposing on behalf of Canada?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did indicate in some general terms what the implication was if the plan as presented was proceeded with.

[Mr. Benson.]

Mr. Stanfield: One final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any reason why the minister will not disclose to the house the proposal that he made at Brussels?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): I think I did indicate yesterday that the main reason was that this was nothing firm; that it was a basis for discussion, comment and an exchange of views. I also indicated that I might have either overestimated or underestimated the numbers, or the figures, that were possibly quoted. We approached our allies with a concept which is to a degree, we think, something new, and therefore before the whole plan itself is really spelled out I do not think it is in the interests of either the forces or the Canadian public to give a figure which may prove to be very inaccurate.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be unfair to the minister, but am I right in concluding from what he said that he made a quite specific proposal regarding the strength of our forces in Europe and that he now refuses to disclose this proposal to the house?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): I think this is an unfair interpretation. I am trying to indicate the difficulties with which we were faced in the committee. I could not indicate with certainty what the figure would be. I did indicate what was involved in our estimation. This of course will have to be further discussed. I will have to have the reactions of the other members of the military committee, and an exchange of arguments and ideas will have to ensue before we arrive at a definite figure.

FINANCE**TAKEOVER BY U.S. OF ROYAL SECURITIES CORPORATION—STEPS TO PREVENT REPETITION**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the concern which he and the Prime Minister have expressed with regard to the takeover of Canadian financial institutions such as Royal Securities, and the effects which this may have upon Canada, will the minister be prepared before the recess to outline to the house what steps the government intends to take to prevent further takeovers of financial institutions in Canada by foreign corporations?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that I