

Inquiries of the Ministry

waters are under revision, and amendments will be made to the present regulations. For the information of the right hon. gentleman I may say that no legislation is required in this house to amend such regulations; this can be done by order in council.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, in so far as these offences are committed within Canada's territorial waters, is the Criminal Code sufficient in the opinion of the minister; and if so, why has not action been taken under the Criminal Code?

Mr. Robichaud: As I have just said, Mr. Speaker, this practice has been going on for a number of years, and this year was the first occasion on which the government made special representations to the industry and to those concerned, and ordered a special survey in order to determine the extent of the excesses which were going on. This matter does not come under the Criminal Code but under fisheries regulations and, as I have said and want to repeat, the regulations will be amended to control the killing of seals, before the opening of the 1965 season.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**LA MACAZA, QUEBEC—TREATMENT OF PEACE DEMONSTRATORS BY R.C.A.F. POLICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence regarding the answer he gave to a question asked by my colleague the hon. member for Hamilton South, in connection with the actions of the R.C.A.F. police at La Macaza during certain peace demonstrations there.

In his answer last Friday the minister said that the allegations contained in a certain newspaper article were false. I should like to ask the minister who made this investigation, since I have in my hand a report from persons who participated. The information is that in the first charge by the 100 guards against some 23 demonstrators at the main gate, one young man was dragged by his hair along the road, a girl was kicked between the legs and a number of people were cruelly seized by the chin and by the back of the neck; that in the second attack several persons were kicked in the side, and one young man who participated said "I was jerked about by six guards, stretched out and then literally tossed up into the air over the ditch, and I heard the sergeant in charge of the guards say to the other guards

[Mr. Robichaud.]

"This is your last chance to throw them off the road so make it good.'" Also, those who took part in this demonstration say that the R.C.A.F. police endeavoured to stop pictures being taken of this demonstration and of the attack which they claim was inexcusably brutal.

I therefore want to ask the associate minister who made this investigation, as a result of which he told the house that the statements contained in the article were utterly false.

Hon. Lucien Cardin (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I cannot name the exact persons who made the inquiry, but an inquiry was made of the commanding officer at the station, La Macaza. From the reports that we have, Mr. Speaker it was quite evident that there had to be at some periods, some contact between the R.C.A.F. police and the demonstrators.

As you perhaps know, what the demonstrators did was to lie in the middle of the road and try to block incoming traffic. Of course the R.C.A.F. police had to pick the people up from the ground, these people automatically went limp, and the police had to take them away from the road. This happened on perhaps two or three occasions when trucks were to come into the station, and in order to bring the number of contacts to the least number possible most of the traffic was directed so that it would come in through the back entrance of the station. Only three or four trucks or vehicles, if my information is correct, came through the front entrance where the demonstrators were. From all the reports we have received, all possible precaution was taken to make sure that none of these demonstrators were hurt.

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question. If, as claimed by those who took part, there was inexcusable brutality, one would hardly expect this to be reported to the minister by those in charge of the station and who were responsible for the guards' actions. I would therefore like to ask, as a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, whether he is prepared to order an investigation by individuals outside the department to protect, in order that those who claim to have been mishandled will have an opportunity to state their case and we will have an opportunity to see whether or not the kind of brutal treatment which is alleged actually took place, or whether it is purely a figment of somebody's imagination. I hope