

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—PROPOSED PEACEKEEPING FORCE—NATURE OF CANADIAN ELEMENT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, before addressing my question to the Minister of National Defence I wish to thank you on behalf of those who sit at the back, whether we wear scarlet jackets or not.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Can the Minister of National Defence inform the House whether the group that, according to information provided to the House within the past few days, is being prepared for a possible hasty departure to Viet Nam was formed as a result of voluntary option or selected by nomination from which there was no appeal? In other words, is it a volunteer or draft force?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the House that there are a number of contingency plans depending upon our requirements. All of those who would be going to Viet Nam, if the government should decide that is what they should do, would be going as volunteers.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Will the minister then inform us if it is true, as I have heard, that discharges—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question cannot be asked in those terms. The hon. member cannot ask the minister to clarify a statement made outside the House.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—REQUEST THAT ACT OR REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO ENSURE THAT PROMISED OLD AGE PENSION INCREASE NOT DEDUCTED

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is the minister giving consideration to an amendment to the War Veterans Allowance Act or to the regulations under that act to make sure that when there is the promised substantial increase in the old age pension this will not be subtracted from the war veterans allowance but will result in an actual addition to the income of our war veterans?

• (1150)

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member, may I say that this question is now under study in the department.

[Mr. Speaker.]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF FULL NAME ON "K" DIVISION HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, EDMONTON

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question arises out of the previous reference to the RCMP and is directed to the Solicitor General. Bearing in mind the strong reaction throughout western Canada against changing the designation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will the minister order the immediate reinstatement of the RCMP name in a size big enough to be seen on "K" division headquarters in Edmonton, which only yesterday reported having received no directive yet?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should point out that there was never any intention to change the name of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: Certainly I have no intention of changing the name. With respect to the signs on buildings, the RCMP is now consulting with the Attorneys General of the different provinces where the RCMP act as provincial police to see what kind of sign is most suitable in the provinces. As soon as those consultations are concluded the new sign will be installed.

Mr. Roche: Will the minister bear in mind that the prolonged delay in restoring the full designation of the RCMP is a continuing source of public friction and concern in this centennial year of the RCMP?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a representation or debate and I do not think the matter should be pursued.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. I regret having to call orders of the day. I appreciate that a number of members have supplementaries either to this question or to others. I will try particularly to give priority in the next question period to the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich and others.

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Roy (Timmins): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Since the beginning of the session, the French-speaking members have had a hard time obtaining their copies of *Hansard* before the beginning of the sitting. I would ask you to be kind enough to see that French copies of *Hansard* are distributed before the beginning of the sitting.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will realize that since the opening of parliament, especially when the sittings began at eleven o'clock, it was difficult to obtain a translation for ten or eleven o'clock. From now on, as in the past, the