

Mr. Trudeau: It is not the policy of the federal government to propose to encourage either the testing or development of further nuclear weapons.

Mr. Rose: Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister's statement almost bristles with hundreds of supplementary questions. I take it that the Prime Minister has repudiated the statement made by the Minister of National Defence, that the neutron bomb is our only deterrent. Assuming that that is what the minister said, does the Prime Minister clearly intend to dissociate himself from that statement and immediately protest the development of the neutron bomb, if that is in fact what is taking place in France at the moment—immediately and as strongly as possible?

● (1500)

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I just answered the second part of the question of the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands.

On the first part of the question, I repeat very clearly—this is my second to last answer—that it is not government policy to advocate any form of nuclear development of new arms or further deployment of old arms.

An hon. Member: You said that about deindexing.

Mr. Trudeau: I have said that many times, Madam Speaker. Hon. members know that is a policy of the government. They know that this government denuclearized our NATO forces in Europe—the Canadian component of our nuclear forces. It is our government which did that.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You did more than that.

Mr. Trudeau: It is our government that is engaged in the purchasing of the F-18, which will not be a nuclear-armed airplane: that should be clear.

* * *

NORTHERN PIPELINES

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—DATE OF DECISION ON PRE-BUILD SECTION

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I should like to put one question to the Prime Minister relating to a round of questions put earlier on the pre-build of the pipeline. The Prime Minister seemed to indicate that the government was looking at the question of guarantees, but he also indicated in his answers a rather close proximity to the date of decision.

Can the House understand that cabinet will be making the decision this week, and that there will be an announcement with respect to the cabinet decision prior to Friday?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, that is my understanding of the timetable the minister has suggested. In his absence, I would not want to give a

Privilege—Mr. Domm

firm undertaking on his part. I can say, however—as I said earlier—that as of now we are planning to reach a final decision in cabinet Thursday.

* * *

RAILWAYS

JURISDICTION OVER CN AND CP LINES WEST OF WINNIPEG

Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It concerns a proposal made at a recent joint meeting of the cabinet ministers of British Columbia and Alberta. As you are aware, Madam Speaker, the proposal concerned those two provinces taking control of the rail lines of CP and CN for everything west of Winnipeg.

In view of the importance of these two rail lines to the economic future of all Canadians, what is the government going to do to prevent any further provincial incursions into this type of federal jurisdiction?

Mr. Nielsen: Double-track.

Mr. Andre: One track each.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I imagine that these proposals are being tentatively developed by the provinces with a view to the constitutional debates which have begun and which are being attended by the Minister of Justice.

I can assure the hon. member for Willowdale that under no circumstances will we give up federal jurisdiction on interprovincial transport and on railways.

* * *

PRIVILEGE

MR. DOMM—ALLEGED DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT SUFFERED BY HON. MEMBER FOR PETERBOROUGH

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I rose last week, as you will recall, to speak to this question of privilege but in the absence of the hon. member for Peterborough (Mr. Domm) I acceded to the suggestion made by the House leader for the opposition to await the presence of the hon. member for Peterborough in this House. I should like to provide you, Madam Speaker—

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, it is my understanding, and I stand to be corrected by the Chair, that when a question of privilege is brought before this House there is ample opportunity for anyone in this House to address that subject.

When I brought the question of privilege to the House about there being different classifications of members of Parliament and said that I had been given false documents from the