

(Text):

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, this is a very different question from the terms of reference, dealing with the agenda for the royal commission on biculturalism.

(Translation):

[Later:]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if, when this royal commission on biculturalism, may I ask the Prime Minister members will be from the province of Quebec as requested by that province?

(Text):

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's curiosity in this matter will be satisfied, and I emphasize "satisfied", very shortly.

(Translation):

[Later:]

Mr. Gerard Girouard (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, on the subject of the royal commission on biculturalism may I ask the Prime Minister if he intends to designate an equal number of representatives for each province or rather for each of the two ethnic groups in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: That question has already been asked in the Commons today. The same question cannot be asked twice.

(Text):

HEALTH INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the hon. lady tell us whether there will be legislation at this session, or consultations with the provinces looking to legislation, with respect to medicare or health insurance for all the people of Canada?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to inform my hon. friend that these matters are under consideration, as always, by the government.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO ARMS TO BE PROVIDED TO ARMED FORCES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. For the benefit of the house I would like him to define what is meant by the "modern arms weapons" that are to be made available for the Canadian armed forces?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question would be extremely long and involved, and in view of the fact that a resolution will be introduced shortly to set up a special select committee on defence problems I think that would be the best time to discuss these matters in detail.

(Translation):

Mr. Gerard Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister.

Could the Prime Minister tell us if he is aware of the fact that it will cost the Canadian taxpayers \$1 billion to equip the Bomarc with nuclear warheads?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of no such fact, because no such fact exists.

[Later:]

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether any steps have been taken up to this date to renegotiate our nuclear defence commitments, such as he suggested last January?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of defence policy is under consideration by the government and it will soon be under consideration, I hope, by a select committee of this house.

Mr. Olson: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When can we expect this committee to be set up?

Mr. Pearson: At the very earliest possible date, Mr. Speaker, the house will be given a chance to deal with this matter through a resolution.

[Later:]

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Since I know that he is quite bilingual, will he give himself the pleasure of answering me in French. My question arises from a statement made by the Minister of National Defence, when he said that parliament did not have to be consulted in order to equip our armed forces with nuclear warheads. I would ask the Prime Minister whether he shares that point of view.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence did not make the statement attributed to him by my hon. friend. However, I have already said, and the Minister of National Defence agrees with me, that this whole question of