

Inquiries of the Ministry

the events which have been reported in the press over the week end, in relation to what has been going on in British Guiana, in view of the articles written on the progress being made by communism in Latin America, it is quite evident that we must be aware of the danger. If the hon. member for Laurier does not feel that communism constitutes a threat, then let him say so publicly.

Mr. Chevrier: Mr. Speaker, in reply to what the minister has just said, I rise on a point of order.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Laurier is not entitled to reply to the answer. He has been allowed three supplementaries, and I think the subject might well now be left for debate at a time when it is appropriate to enter into debate.

The hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Herridge: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was rising to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The same ruling applies to the hon. member for Kootenay West.

[Later:]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the Associate Minister of National Defence, can the Prime Minister say whether it is the policy of the government to have members of the government make speeches on its behalf—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Hellyer: —based on alleged facts gleaned from newspaper reports?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the Prime Minister heard the question. There was considerable interruption, and I must say I had difficulty myself in hearing it.

Mr. Churchill: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I understood Your Honour to rule out further supplementaries with regard to speeches made by the Associate Minister of National Defence.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member wants to ask his question, would he repeat it so that I may determine whether it is proper.

Mr. Hellyer: The question is this. Is it the policy of the government to have members of the government make speeches on its behalf based on facts allegedly gleaned from newspaper reports?

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member's question is a purely hypothetical one.

Mr. Hellyer: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is not hypothetical, because this

[Mr. Sevigny.]

is what the associate minister has informed the house and the country that he did.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member is asking a question about the conduct of the associate minister, that matter has been disposed of for this morning. If it has to do with other matters it is not attached to any specific facts and, as I say, it is hypothetical.

COMBINES

CANADA PACKERS—INQUIRY AS TO COURT ORDER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. On January 31, as reported at page 401 of *Hansard*, I asked the minister a question relating to the disposition of the recommendation of the restrictive trade practices commission regarding the action of Canada Packers in acquiring two other companies. At that time the minister answered as follows:

My recollection is that this matter has been referred to counsel, but with precisely what instructions I do not recall. I shall have to look that up and give a more complete answer tomorrow.

Is the minister now able to enlarge upon that answer?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The answer is that the report was referred to counsel for an opinion as to prosecution.

Mr. Howard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether that opinion has been received as yet?

Mr. Fulton: My recollection is that it has not been, but if I am wrong I shall advise the hon. member.

THE CENSUS

STATEMENT REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF
POPULATION FIGURES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Port Arthur asked me when the final census figures would be presented. I said I would speak to the dominion statistician, and having done so this is the report he has given me.

As usual there will be three reports, as follows:

1. It is expected that the final population total for Canada, the provinces and the northern territories for the census of June 1, 1961 will be released in the daily bulletin of the dominion bureau of statistics about March 9.