

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

subject for study in connection with the militia, particularly in view of recent scientific advances which have been made in some other countries. That may not be as glamorous a role as some of the other ones which have in the past been carried out by the militia, but I am confident that the militia will render the same patriotic service in this role as it has always done, rather than seeking some phony, glamorous role which hardly exists.

**Some hon. Members:** Phony?

**Mr. Henderson:** Do I take it in view of what the minister has just said that in the present training year which started on October 1, 1957, the militia will conduct no other training other than for civil defence?

**Mr. Pearkes:** No I just read the opening words of the directive, and I will read them again:

To prepare the militia for its role to assist in any future mobilization for active service and for civil defence. Emphasis will be given to civil defence.

Arrangements are made for selected personnel of militia units to attend summer camps with the regular units. The role of mobilization is not to be overlooked.

**Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the minister. Perhaps he could tell the house what phony, glamorous role the militia has had in the past?

**Mr. Pearkes:** There is no suggestion of the militia having carried out in the past any role that could be considered as phony or glamorous, but there might be roles carried out in the future which would not be practical.

REPORTED UNIDENTIFIED SUBMARINES  
OFF NEWFOUNDLAND COAST

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. L. T. Stick (Trinity-Conception):** I would like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence and this, Mr. Speaker, is a serious question. In view of the many reports of strange submarines said to have been seen around the coast of Newfoundland, what action if any has been taken by his department to look into this matter?

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, throughout the summer months there have been many reports from fishermen and other residents of Newfoundland that they have seen objects which they believe are unidentified submarines. These reports have not been confirmed, although every effort has been made to confirm them, by any naval or air force personnel. In every case where there has been

[Mr. Pearkes.]

a report made by a fisherman or resident of Newfoundland a senior naval officer has personally interviewed and questioned the person making the report. Action is being taken by the flag officer, Atlantic, to try to confirm any future reports which might be made. I might say that action has been taken during the past several weeks by the navy and by the Royal Canadian Air Force to make a definite identification.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN  
CONSTRUCTION OF SEA WALL

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works and I assure you, sir, it is not one for the order paper.

British Columbia is holding its centennial next year, and one of the questions asked of the Minister of Public Works is with respect to a contribution by the government toward the building of the sea wall which, under Vancouver's centennial plan, will take care of and hold for all time the famous R.C.M.P. ship *St. Roch*.

I understand that information must be received immediately if the plan is to go forward. May I ask the hon. minister to tell us whether the federal government is prepared to participate financially in this matter?

**Hon. Howard C. Green (Minister of Public Works):** The hon. member for Vancouver East is a little behind the times on this question. I have been considering this matter for some weeks, and just a few days ago had a conference with three of the aldermen from the city of Vancouver. I am very hopeful that the government can give some help in connection with the sea wall, but I point out to the hon. member that he had better not press me too hard or I will be in trouble with the Minister of Finance. That is the situation at the present time. We are endeavouring to see what can be done in regard to this program.

AIR TRANSPORT

STATEMENT ON AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS,  
ITALY-CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for St. Antoine-Westmount (Mr. Marler) asked a question of the Prime Minister, requesting information regarding the possibility of an agreement being reached