

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns reports that the Ontario health department's Parcost program has been rejecting drugs for use in Ontario that have previously been approved by the federal department of health. I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of this practice, and whether or not he has had discussions with the Ontario provincial Minister of Health with a view to clarifying the situation?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice for the minister and get an answer for the hon. member.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SALE OF ARMS BY FRANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA—
CANADIAN POSITION**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I move to another topic arising out of questions that were asked yesterday in connection with the sale of arms to South Africa. Would the Acting Prime Minister say whether or not Canada, as one of the member nations of the Francophone organization, has taken up the question and objected to the Republic of France selling arms to South Africa during recent months? In particular, have any direct representations in this regard been made to France, which today is one of the leading merchants of death?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. gentleman knows, the Francophone organization is concerned wholly with cultural, educational and technical matters. It does not have, as does the Commonwealth, any political ties and it would not be appropriate to raise in the Francophone organization questions of this kind. But may I say that in the United Nations Canada has made its position quite plain on this issue, and I join with the right hon. gentleman in expressing the hope that no country will supply arms to South Africa.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I shall not answer the misinterpretation placed on my words by the minister because, after all, deception under the new rules has become a rule in which some of the ministers are proficient. I ask the minister directly. In view of the interest of Canada in assuring that South Africa shall not receive arms, have representations been made to the Republic of France against the large sales that are being made by it, not only to South Africa but to other countries?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I have said we have joined in the United Nations in opposing France, as well as all other countries supplying arms to South Africa. I have no hesitation in associating myself with the right hon. gentleman on this, and I hope he associates himself with the government's position in opposing the action of the British government if they decide to do so.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Scott.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the right hon. gentleman is seeking the floor for the purpose of asking a supplementary question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes. I am not used to having brush-offs, and I ask the minister specifically, have representations been made to the government of France? Isn't that a simple question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont.

**SALE OF ARMS BY FRANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA—CANADIAN
ABSTENTION FROM UNITED NATIONS VOTES**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. Since he mentioned earlier that our position has been made clear at the United Nations, could he indicate if this was the reason for our abstention from a number of votes on this question in October?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): It was the reason that, with the approval of this Parliament, Canada decided not to supply any arms to South Africa, notwithstanding some of the resent representations I have heard by some members of the hon. member's party to the effect that we should resume shipment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FINANCE**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUND FOR LOANS TO PROV-
INCES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the reported willingness of the provinces to make use of the loan fund announced in the budget, and in view of the fact that a seasonal upturn in unemployment rates of .1 means some 60,000 to 70,000 jobs, will the minister consider an increase in the moneys allocated to this fund, and will he consider making a portion of the payments from this fund in the form of grants?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the size and the amount of the fund were clearly outlined in the budget speech. I should indicate that the amount of money involved in this fund is about six times what used to be spent annually on winter works.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, have any of the provinces made a request for allocation of a larger amount of funds than was announced in the budget?

Mr. Benson: The allocation was made on the basis announced in the budget speech. Officials of the Department of Finance and of other departments have been in touch with the provinces, and most of the provinces have indicated exactly how they will use the funds.