

Oral Questions

III. He specifically exempted us. He was simply advising us of this action on the part of the American air defence.

Mr. Rowland: What were the minister's instructions to the Canadian personnel in NORAD on receipt of that information?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, there was no need to give any instructions. The information was there. They were aware of the information that had been provided to us but there was no need to give additional instructions.

Mr. Rowland: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member wishes to ask a third supplementary. The hon. member will be recognized for that purpose, following which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East and the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In light of the fact that Canada was not consulted in advance of the United States ordering its forces to a Defcon III position, and in light of the fact that we were advised only after the fact, will the Prime Minister give an undertaking to the House that he will take the necessary steps to protect Canadian sovereignty in the future by indicating to the United States that on the termination of the current NORAD agreement we will not again agree to its renewal in light of the present situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this question of consultation on several occasions and I am satisfied that with some improvements this system can and does work well. Of course, consultation only applies when both countries under NORAD are going into a different Defcon. The situation does not apply when the Americans with their own troops, whether it be under the umbrella of NORAD or in some other area, decide to change the defence conditions of those troops. As the minister just explained, Canadian defence forces were not involved in any way in this alert which was applied by the Americans to the Americans, and surely we would not want the American government to have to consult us when they are going to do something with their own troops.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence because obviously there is a very bad misunderstanding as exemplified by the views expressed last night on national television. I would ask the minister whether or not this exclusion or exemption from the alert applied only to the North Bay set-up or in fact applied to all of the bases where nuclear instruments are being held?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, not only was the Canadian component of NORAD not put on alert, but NORAD itself was not on alert because NORAD does not exist without that Canadian component. It was the American air defence component of NORAD that was on alert.

● (1440)

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, is the Minister of National Defence stating now that the Canadian forces were not on alert in all areas with the exception of, I think, district 22 in the Yukon? Is he stating that Canadians were not on the alert at that time?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I am making clear that the Canadian forces were not on alert and that Canada was not asked to go on alert. There were some individuals in integrated staff positions who in the early stages would have been involved in the normal course of their duties, but they were not formally on alert and the country was not on alert.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond on a supplementary and then attempt to complete the first round of questioning and return to further supplementaries on this subject by recognizing the hon. member for Trinity and others.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Defence how much farther does he intend to go with demoralizing the Canadian forces?

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LABOUR RELATIONS

ONTARIO BILL RESPECTING SCHOOLTEACHERS—STUDY BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Have the minister and his officials studied the Ontario legislation Bill 274, and, if so, does the minister consider it to be a form of forced labour legislation in view of the fact that it retroactively forbids an employee resigning his job?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we have not as yet formally studied that bill.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, would the minister assure the House that he will do so and inform the government of Ontario forthwith that this measure contravenes basic civil liberties as embodied in the Canadian Bill of Rights?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we will no doubt be looking at this legislation as we do all provincial legislation in the ordinary course.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

QUEBEC CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT BASED ON USE OF ITS OWN POLICE FORCE RATHER THAN RCMP

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General.

Could he clearly tell the House whether he intends to review his position concerning the claim of the Quebec Minister of Justice concerning the refund of considerable amounts as compensation since Quebec has its own police