

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Argue:** If the Prime Minister wishes to take credit for this development since it is coming about the same time as this anniversary, of course this anniversary will have to bear many other responsibilities including some of the difficulties of the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Pearkes). I do not really think there is any connection between the development of Canada's resources and this welcome anniversary.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****BOMARC MISSILE—REPORTED REDUCTION IN U.S. APPROPRIATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister seen the Washington dispatch to the effect that the United States appropriation for the Bomarc B missile is being cut from \$421 million to \$50 million for the next fiscal year and will the minister tell the house what effect this announcement will have on Canada's defence policy?

**Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, Canada has been consistently consulted regarding a possible revision of the joint air defence plan which might be adopted in order that the development of defence and warning against ballistic missiles might be accelerated. This would be in accord with our belief that the Soviets are placing greater emphasis on missiles and less on bombers.

As the hearings before the subcommittee of the committee on appropriations of the house of representatives have not been completed, the house will realize that it would be highly improper for me to comment upon the actions of this committee or to make any statement at this time on a speculative press report of a meeting that was supposed to be held in camera.

**Mr. Hellyer:** A supplementary question. Does the minister not agree that this announcement from Washington means, in effect, that the program is washed out, that the Bomarc is a dead pigeon?

**Mr. Pearkes:** Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with what the hon. member has said but, as I stated, it would be improper for me to make any further comment at this time.

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Will Canada proceed with its Bomarc installations in the event that the United States appropriation is cut by this amount, and if—

[Mr. Hees.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It seems to me that the minister's replies have already indicated that he does not propose to answer the hypothetical aspects of these questions, and the hon. member is now getting into the purely hypothetical because, as has been indicated, this is a matter before a committee. As hon. members know, there are several stages to committee proceedings before there is any ultimate disposition of the matter.

**Mr. Argue:** Then my question is this. Is it the Canadian government's policy to proceed with the installation of bases for the Bomarc missile?

**Mr. Pearkes:** As the hon. member knows, we have selected two sites for the Bomarc units. On one of those sites, at North Bay, construction has started. Construction has not started on the other site.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has told the house that—

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Hellyer:** —the question is hypothetical because the report concerned a meeting which was held in camera. May I now direct to him this question. Is the minister aware that Dr. Herbert F. York, the defence department's chief scientist, told the senate defence appropriation committee in an opening hearing—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is apparent from the question as far as it has gone that the hon. member is proposing to give some information rather than ask for some. If he has a factual question to ask of the minister, I suggest he put it.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. In view of the critical review of the Bomarc program which is under way in the United States at the present time, as announced by Dr. York at an open hearing, will the minister now suspend all work on the Canadian Bomarc sites and the SAGE installations until the outcome of the United States review is complete?

**Mr. Pearkes:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Pearson:** May I ask the minister if he still retains confidence in this weapon?

**Mr. Pearkes:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister justify further ex-