

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, October 18, 1957

The house met at eleven o'clock.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SYRIAN-TURKISH BORDER—SUGGESTED USE OF UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Algoma East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Green). In view of what appears to be a tense and dangerous situation on the Syrian-Turkish border, would the government consider instructing their delegation at the United Nations assembly to explore with other delegations, as a matter of urgency, the possibility of stationing elements of the United Nations emergency force on that border in the interests of greater security and the avoidance of aggression?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his suggestion. I agree that this is a very serious situation, and we will be glad to give consideration to what he has said.

COLOMBO PLAN—INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a question of the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker? In view of the fact that one of the ministers without portfolio is now on his way to Saigon in South Viet Nam to attend the meeting of the Colombo plan, and in view of the repeated declarations made in this house by the present Prime Minister as to the inadequacy of Canada's contribution to the Colombo plan, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether or not the minister without portfolio will be announcing that Canada proposes to make substantial increases in its Colombo plan contributions?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is not the type of statement that should be made without some consideration, but we will be making a statement to the house at the earliest opportunity on this question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): But will the minister without portfolio who has now left the house for Asia be making an announcement on the lines I have indicated?

Mr. Green: That is the same question dressed up in a somewhat different form, and my answer is the same as the answer I gave to the first one.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Perhaps I would be correct in saying that the Acting Prime Minister is not aware of the situation.

Mr. Green: The hon. member for Essex East would be very incorrect to assume any such thing.

SHIPPING

TRANSFER TO TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT OF H.M.C.S. LABRADOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. T. Stick (Trinity-Conception): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Transport in connection with the transfer to his department of H.M.C.S. *Labrador*. What physical changes are to be made to this ship, by whom are they to be carried out, and have tenders been called for?

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for having sent me notice of his question. The answer is that discussions with regard to the arrangements for the transfer of the *Labrador* from the Royal Canadian Navy to the Department of Transport are still going on, and no decision has yet been taken by my department as to what physical changes to the ship, if any, should be undertaken in this connection. At such time as a decision has been made I will be very glad to give the hon. member the information he seeks.

Hon. George C. Marler (St. Antoine-Westmount): Before the minister goes on, may I ask a supplementary question. Did the minister not make an announcement quite recently that the transfer of the *Labrador* from the Department of National Defence to the Department of Transport had actually taken place?

Mr. Hees: No, Mr. Speaker, once again the hon. member is mistaken. The announcement I made was that arrangements were being made between the departments for the transfer, but the transfer was not expected to take place until later on in the year when the arrangements between the two departments had been worked out.