

National Defence Act Amendment

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member might put that question on the order paper.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. gentleman is making a representation and not asking a question.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

INQUIRY AS TO IMPLEMENTATION BY PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. While the minister was absent last week I placed a question on the record asking whether any provinces have signed agreements yet to implement the Canada Assistance Plan, and I referred particularly to British Columbia.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO FORT SMITH FOLLOWING NAMING OF YELLOWKNIFE AS CAPITAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. With the naming of Yellowknife as the capital of Northwest Territories I ask the minister whether he will be able to announce the level and type of assistance to be available from the federal government to the community of Fort Smith to ensure that no disastrous economic effects will be felt by the latter community when many families are moved from Fort Smith to Yellowknife.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am not pessimistic about any area in the Northwest Territories and I hope the hon. member is not either. With all the things that are going on there and the evidence of the resources that we have, the outlook is very bright indeed.

We have said that in the interim we shall be thinking in terms of putting some of the institutional buildings in Fort Smith that we might have planned for other places to take up the slack. I expect to make an announcement in about a couple of weeks in this regard.

Mr. Orange: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister approach his colleague, the Minister of Industry, to see if the Area Development Incentives Act might be applied to the community in question?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED RENEGOTIATION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Has the right hon. gentleman had an opportunity to look into the question I asked on January 18? I inquired whether consideration was being given to the advisability of asking the United States to renegotiate the migratory birds convention?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the advisability of approaching the United States government with a view to the re-examination and renegotiation of the convention is now under consideration.

NATIONAL DEFENCE ACT AMENDMENT

AMALGAMATION OF NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE

The house resumed from Wednesday, December 7, 1966, consideration of the motion of Mr. Hellyer for the second reading of Bill No. C-243, to amend the National Defence Act and other acts in consequence thereof.

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, this debate was interrupted by the six o'clock adjournment on Wednesday, December 7, seven weeks ago, and one might feel it is almost anticlimactic to come back to the question. However, perhaps the house would permit me to recapitulate briefly the remarks I made on that occasion after having heard the minister deliver a carefully prepared speech lasting an hour and 50 minutes, a speech which was, I understand, distributed at public expense in great numbers—40,000 I am told, or have read—to the various service personnel. I was wondering whether the minister would do us the courtesy of distributing an equal number of the critiques of his speech so that the servicemen might have an opportunity to form an objective conclusion rather than be forced to rely on a wave of propaganda from the minister's office.

The points I am making are, briefly, these: first, that since the government and the minister are making the proposal for the change and since, we hope, change must be for better