

## NORAD—Canada-U.S. Agreement

ment. It is an agreement which was entered into without parliament having had the opportunity of looking at it, and since yesterday, members of the opposition have been asking many questions that have yet to be answered, which proves that there are still many details to be clarified.

This agreement should have been submitted to this house many weeks or months ago. This government would thus have introduced something much more intelligible, not to say intelligible.

We have been asking numerous questions since yesterday and no definite answer has yet been forthcoming. I have read rather carefully the answer which the Minister of National Defence tried to give yesterday to the different questions but, in spite of all my efforts and good will, I could find no clarification. He merely repeated the questions which had been asked and, in what seemed unending verbiage, he gave explanations which instead of clarifying the situation made it more confused. I would be inclined to repeat the speech he made; it would be enough to show that the minister did not dare answer.

However, a question has been asked by the hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) to which no answer has been given either by the Minister of National Defence or by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The hon. member asked whether, in the absence of the supreme commander, General Partridge, the Canadian commander, his deputy, would have the same authority as General Partridge, under section 3 of the agreement, to give orders to American troops and squadrons without consulting the American government. If he has not, the Minister of National Defence and the Secretary of State for External Affairs have not answered that question and I even wonder whether the Prime Minister, in his final reply, will be able to answer it.

At first we heard that, because the situation was not clear, this question could not be discussed before being submitted to the American government, but I wonder whether the American government would answer in that way before the question had been submitted to the Canadian government.

Mr. Speaker, I see my time is running out and I would not like to take up too much of the time of the house, but I would have liked to have at least 40 minutes. . . . (Applause). I take it that this applause expresses the wish that I sit down, because when the remarks made do not hurt anyone,

[Mr. Caron.]

hon. members seem to be rather indifferent but when they are not indifferent, it means that they are being hurt.

Mr. Speaker, why were we promised at the last session that the agreement would be submitted to the house before it was signed, and why does the government refuse to submit it this year? Why was the agreement signed before being submitted to the approval of the house? Has the government reached the point where it believes itself made up of supermen, who cannot be wrong?

The discussion which has been going on since yesterday, the remarks of my leader, the Leader of the Opposition and those of the hon. member for Essex East, the numerous questions asked by these two members and by members of the C.C.F. party, to which no answer has been given, show that there is still much confusion, that the question is not clear, that it has not been clarified and might never be.

I hope that, from now on, whenever this government signs an agreement with another country, it will at least have the decency to ask the opinion of members of this house, to whatever party they belong, so that the government may be enlightened and may proceed more efficiently in the future.

(Text):

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the house listened with much interest yesterday to the speech of the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) on the NORAD resolution. We were a little bit surprised that on a matter as important as is this subject he should have introduced a political note here and there. I rather regretted it. At the beginning of his remarks, as recorded at page 992 of *Hansard*, he said this:

I do not intend to enter into anything of a controversial nature in making this presentation,—

For many years now, as far as foreign policy is concerned or at least in so far as foreign policy relates to matters of national defence is concerned, we have had in Canada fairly unanimous support of one policy on the part of most sections of the Canadian people.

**Mr. McDonald (Hamilton South):** May I ask the hon. member a question? If that is so, is your group going to vote for this measure?

**Mr. Regier:** I should like to advise the hon. member to await the event. If he will listen to what I have to say, near the end of my remarks I believe he will have the answer; and the onus will be placed on the Prime Minister of Canada. It will not be upon us.