

appear at the hearings? And in order to achieve that end would it be the wish of the Minister that the committee, once seized of the Bill, should travel through western Canada at such a time and to such places as to guarantee that the farmers who will have to pay the loses will be given every opportunity to appear and have their views heard, recognizing that August 1 will have passed and the Bill would not necessarily, therefore, go into effect until next year?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, if my hon. friend insists on having my own views, I would have thought, first, that there would be a happy medium between listening to 140,000 people and listening to some. Second, I would have thought that the leaders of western farm organizations and others are representative of the western farmers. Many of them are elected, and many of them elected more often than Members of Parliament. I would have thought that their views would have been representative of the views of the farmers in the West.

**Mr. Deans:** You are not letting the farmers be heard?

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## NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

### REPORTED STATEMENT BY CANADIAN ADMIRAL

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday Admiral Falls, Chairman of NATO's military committee, said:

If arms control talks do not work, then it might become necessary to act unilaterally to reduce, especially battlefield nuclear weapons, because we have more than we need . . . If we did that, I think we would find that we could demonstrate to the Soviets that both sides could stop the proliferation of nuclear arms.

Although Admiral Falls is under the authority of NATO, his salary is paid by the Canadian Department of National Defence. Bearing this in mind, would the Minister tell the House if Admiral Falls' statement reflects Canadian Government policy?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I have not read the precise words uttered by Admiral Falls, but I do know that currently the requirements of the NATO defence forces are under review, and it may be that type of activity to which Admiral Falls is referring. There have been comments from time to time, as the Hon. Member knows, that arouse some debate upon the use of battlefield nuclear weapons. It is not surprising that Admiral Falls would refer to a subject of this kind and also to the possibility of reducing nuclear weapons. As the former Minister of National Defence well knows, at one time NATO did reduce its nuclear weapons in Europe by about 1,000.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Madam Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs seems to have escaped the wording that it was

a unilateral disarmament of which Admiral Falls was speaking.

### REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES NUCLEAR WARHEADS FROM EUROPE

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, with respect to the 1,000 nuclear warheads which the United States removed from Europe, and bearing in mind that was done over a four-year period without any reciprocal motion at all by the Warsaw Pact countries, does the Secretary of State for External Affairs believe that there is any possibility that a continuation of this unilateral disarmament will have any other effect than it has so far?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows at present there is a negotiation under way at Geneva at which certainly the NATO Alliance, through the United States, is seeking a reduction in armaments. We are always working in the direction not of a unilateral disarmament but in the direction of balanced and verifiable disarmament at lower levels of armaments. That is the policy of NATO. That policy was recently restated at the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers at which we, once again, restated the intention of the Alliance to undertake deployment of weapons in Europe unless there were concrete results in negotiations now taking place at Geneva. That is the policy of NATO which I repeat for the Hon. Member.

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

### MACBRIDE COMMISSION REPORT

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He will know that UNESCO, through the United Nations, is promoting what is called the MacBride Commission Report, or the new International Information Order. What is the position of Canada in relation to that MacBride Commission Report?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I am familiar with the author and the nature of that report. The question of information dissemination has been under debate at the United Nations. There have been differences of opinion as to how that is best resolved. If the Hon. Member has some specific items with respect to what he describes as a New Information Order, I would be glad to get the details for him.

### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, the Minister will know that Mr. Séan MacBride about five years ago was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize. But, more important, the whole thrust of the report is to