

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) he called my attention to the fact that in 1950 in two cases some information that would be of the kind referred to in question 49 was given, and he asked if there had been any change in policy.

There has been no change in policy. I promised to look into the matter. I have done so, and I find that there were two exceptions to the application of the general rule in 1950 for reasons or under circumstances which were quite fully disclosed to the house at that time, but the validity of these, as reasons for a distinction, the hon. member might wish to discuss. It would take some time to restate them now. Perhaps it would be more convenient if they were restated and could be discussed on the estimates of the department concerned.

TRADE**SUPREME POWER SUPPLIES LIMITED—EXPORT PERMITS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Rodney Adamson (York West): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The hon. member was out aeroplaning so I have not been able to get in touch with him. Has the company known as Supreme Power Supplies Limited, of Mimico, been refused an export permit for Canadian transformers or other goods for shipment to South America or any other country? If so, what are the reasons for such refusal? The minister may take this as a notice.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will take that question as notice.

ATOMIC ENERGY**REQUEST FOR REPORT TO COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the reports coming over the wires in the last hour or so concerning the statement made by Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the atomic energy commission in the United States at President Eisenhower's press conference today with respect to the recent hydrogen bomb explosions, could arrangements be made for a similar Canadian official to make a full report on these matters at a meeting of the external affairs committee?

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): It would not be possible for any Canadian official to make the same kind of report as that attributed to Admiral Strauss, for obvious reasons. But this matter can be discussed in its international aspects before the committee on external affairs—if and when we have that committee set up.

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION**POSSIBILITY OF DUCHESS OF KENT ATTENDING OPENING CEREMONIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State. Has the minister heard the rumour that the Duchess of Kent will open the Canadian National Exhibition next summer? If so, is there any substance in that rumour?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): The Secretary of State has heard no rumours to this effect.

[Later:]

Mr. Hees: I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Has he received any word whatsoever from the United Kingdom regarding the possibility of the Duchess of Kent opening the Canadian National Exhibition?

Mr. Pickersgill: When there are any announcements to be made about visits of members of the royal family they will be made in the usual way, and not be made in answer to questions on the orders of the day.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The old steamroller on information.

ARMED FORCES**PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT ENLISTMENT OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Defence. I must apologize for having given him such short notice. In view of the recent conviction of a Canadian soldier reported to have the mental age of ten, can the minister tell the house whether the Department of National Defence takes any precautions to prevent mental defectives from enlisting in the services? Is there not something better that Canada can do for these unfortunate people?