

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM WAR—STATEMENT ON ASSISTANCE TO  
CANADIANS

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, since Canada has no diplomatic representation in Viet Nam, the British Embassy in Saigon provides consular assistance to Canadians in the area and has agreed to include Canadians and certain other Commonwealth citizens in its contingency plans for evacuation. We are in consultation with the British authorities concerning the present situation.

Until recent developments in the central highlands region of South Viet Nam, Canadians serving under the development assistance program have not been in areas affected by the present hostilities. However, in recent days the security situation has deteriorated in the coastal city of Qui Nhon where the joint Canadian-Vietnamese rehabilitation centre is located, and it was considered necessary to move part of the Canadian team and their dependants temporarily to Saigon to await an improvement in the situation. Other Canadians working on assistance projects elsewhere in Viet Nam remain outside the major areas of hostilities, but we are continuing to watch the situation closely. The remainder of the Canadian aid program which comprises in part humanitarian and paramedical projects such as providing vaccines, food aid and emergency relief is continuing, and in response to an appeal from the government of the Republic of Viet Nam for assistance to persons displaced by the current hostilities Canada has undertaken to provide 500 metric tons of canned fish on an emergency basis.

• (1510)

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Peace River.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Peace River. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate rises on a question of privilege. I will recognize the hon. member for Peace River shortly.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. In the last few days a number of questions have been raised in the House concerning the salmon fishery and the need for consultation with the provinces. Reference was made to what took place under the administrative arrangements with Quebec arising from the understanding reached in 1920. The Minister of Fisheries, I do not think deliberately, has consistently stated that such consultations have taken place, and he referred specifically to the Premier of Newfoundland with respect to the salmon licensing arrangements on the southwest coast of that province.

Two considerations arise. First, I should like to state for the record that there have been no such consultations specifically in connection with these problems and the minister has a responsibility to set the record straight. Second, there ought to be some means whereby urgent questions of this kind—

*Assistance to Canadians in Viet Nam War*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is not a question of privilege by any stretch of the imagination. I do not know under what guise the hon. member is trying to bring this matter to the attention of the House. Does he intend to propose a motion or ask for a reference to committee in connection with this matter? This is not a question of privilege and the hon. member is entirely out of order. He has a question which he would perhaps like to clear up during the question period, but this is not a question of privilege.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** My comment will be brief, Mr. Speaker. I am sure hon. members appreciate the fact that the minister has responded to requests for information on this serious situation. Because of the gravity of these events and the fact that Canadians are involved, I would only ask the minister whether, within the limits of security for Canadians who are in the area, he would from time to time keep the House informed as to what is being done.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** How long is "from time to time"?

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, this is perhaps going beyond my experience as a member of parliament, but I understand that if information is conveyed to the House which is not in accordance with the facts, an hon. member has a grievance. I have just had a discussion with the Premier of Newfoundland, and in connection with the statement by the minister that he did hold consultations with that province on the recent announcement concerning the salmon fishery, specifically on the southwest coast of Newfoundland, may I say that the minister has not given the House information in accordance with the facts. Is there no provision whereby the record can be set straight—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member may have a grievance, but the matter he has raised is one for debate. It cannot be raised or discussed in the House by way of a question of privilege. There are opportunities for hon. members to bring to the attention of the House grievances of this kind, but again I suggest to him that the correct procedure is not by way of a question of privilege.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

## FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN

MEASURE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS IN RESPECT OF  
CHILDREN

The House resumed, from Tuesday, April 25, consideration of the motion of Mr. Munro that Bill C-170, to provide for the payment of benefits in respect of children, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Lewis (p. 1448).

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, before the Easter recess I made a speech in which I set forth in detail my criticisms of Bill C-170. Since then speakers who have