

Oral Questions

level before even the knowledge of what they are doing, in fact, has come to us.

* * *

NEW HORIZONS PROGRAM

NOTIFICATION OF GRANTS TO ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. It arises from a statement made July 2 by the Minister of National Health and Welfare who stated, in effect, that cheques for New Horizons Grants would be transmitted to the recipients through the member of Parliament for the ridings involved, regardless of politics, and the minister gave her assurance that no politics whatsoever had been involved in New Horizons grants.

Will the minister tell the House whether or not his department will be forwarding New Horizons cheques through each member of Parliament to recipients, according to the policy decision announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare? In other words, have such arrangements been completed; and if not, will the minister be talking to his colleagues about completing such arrangements?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, there has been no conversation to date. I will look into the matter and report to the hon. member.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECT GRANTS THROUGH MPs

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister, who I am sure—as he is the Prime Minister—will be fully aware of all new government policies.

In view of the new policy announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare on July 2, that New Horizons cheques will be forwarded to recipients through their members of Parliament, regardless of political affiliation, could the Prime Minister tell the House whether this will apply to any other type of government grant, such as DREE, employment programs, Open House Canada, and so on; and if not, will it only apply to New Horizons grants or any other grants where the minister concerned is caught with his or her political hand in the patronage cookie jar?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That sounds like an argument, Madam Speaker.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

POLICY ON POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. It stems from statements made by the Minister of National Defence which were touched on a little earlier.

The minister said, “You talk lately about the French proton bomb” and went on to say, in apparent reference to the high-radiation neutron bomb France recently said it had tested, “I know a lot of people don’t agree with me, but it is the only deterrent we have at the moment”. Those are very forceful and clear statements.

Judging from the Prime Minister’s response to questions asked by hon. members of the loyal opposition a few moments ago, will he stand in the House and state clearly and unequivocally that he does not support the ludicrous statement uttered by the Minister of National Defence, that this is the only deterrent we have, and that the Minister of National Defence was not speaking on behalf of the government when he made that statement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I thought that in answer to the first question I had made it clear that my reading of the quote I saw of the minister’s words was that he was not speaking on behalf of Canada or its defence policy.

Mr. Cossitt: You do answer questions now and then.

Mr. Trudeau: He was saying “we”, in the sense of the alliance believing certain things, and that within the alliance we have SALT, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Hopefully, it will extend to all forms of nuclear devices, certainly including this one. That is my understanding of what the minister said.

In so far as our policy is concerned, I also indicated that we had opposed proliferation in the past, we had signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and we have been active in the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We tried to extend that not only to atmospheric testing but also to underground testing. That remains our policy. We denuclearized Canadian forces.

Mr. Blaikie: What is the minister saying?

Mr. Trudeau: I am talking about the Government of Canada.

Mr. Blaikie: What is he talking about?

Mr. Trudeau: I repeat, I believe that the minister was talking about the western alliance, of which the United States is a member, and they are involved in the SALT talks—I repeat, I have not had a chance to discuss the matter with the minister. I saw this text, which certainly would not indicate that “we” refers to “we, the federal government.” If it refers to “we, the members of the alliance”, it may be an opinion which he is expressing.

Mr. Rae: Make up your mind.