

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, could I put my question in another way?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognize the hon. member for Trinity.

[Later:]

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Defence if the following fact is not correct—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later:]

Mr. McIntosh: I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence and ask him whether conventional weapons will nullify what is known as the dead man's fuse and, if not, what protection would Canada get to prevent atomic explosions taking place over or on our territory?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that two thirds of his question is of a hypothetical nature and is, therefore, not in order on orders of the day. There are, of course, only certain types of question which can be asked, and I should perhaps refer hon. members back to the guideposts we studied together on a previous occasion. We might do well to go back to them.

NATO—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN COMMITMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is it the intention of the government to fulfil the commitment it made to NATO in 1958 when it undertook the strike attack role and the arming of CF-104 aircraft with atomic devices?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member well knows what the position has been in connection with this matter, and he well knows also that we have met all the commitments we have made to NATO.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Parkdale.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. Is it not a fact that the critical time for decision—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member, when he prefaces his question with "Is it not a fact", is getting into an argumentative question inviting an argumentative answer from the minister. That is quite improper. I would ask the hon. member to look at paragraph 39 of standing orders—

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Hellyer: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; I should like to rephrase my supplementary question, with your permission.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will recognize the hon. member for Parkdale, and then the hon. member may rephrase his question.

[Later:]

Mr. Hellyer: I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. Was November 1 the critical day for signature by Canada of a bilateral agreement with the United States which would permit the supply of atomic weapons to the air division in Europe in time for the first squadron to be equipped by May 1, next, as planned by the supreme commander?

Mr. Harkness: As far as I know there are no critical dates in connection with this matter.

REPORTED REQUEST TO U.S. FOR ADDITIONAL F-101 PLANES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Did the Canadian Department of National Defence request the United States air force or government to supply additional F-101 Voodoo planes and, if so, was this request turned down?

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): I am sorry, but I did not hear what came after the word "additional".

Mr. Hellyer: With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, my question is based on an article in the *Financial Post* of December 1. Did the Canadian government request the United States government or air force to supply to the Canadian air force additional F-101 Voodoo aircraft for use by the Canadian air force and, if so, was this request turned down?

Mr. Harkness: This whole matter of the supply of 101's, as the hon. gentleman I think is aware, was a matter of a three cornered deal which involved defence sharing and mutual aid as far as certain European countries are concerned, and the manufacture in Canada of F-104 aircraft. That has been the situation with regard to these planes.

TRANSPORT

LIFE JACKETS—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF APPROVAL SYSTEM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he would make a statement and give immediate attention to the