

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

### CANCELLATION OF PLAN TO BUY SCORPION TANK— ASSURANCE LIFE OF CENTURION TANK NOT EXTENDED BEYOND TWO YEARS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In light of the formal announcement of the cancellation of plans to buy the Scorpion light tank, can the minister tell us whether in fact the department has diverted any of the allocated funds for the purchase of other capital equipment for the armed forces and, if so, give us an indication of what purchases may have been made?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct. We have cancelled the order, or possible order to buy the Scorpion and we are extending the life of the Centurion for two years, but there has been no reallocation of the funds.

**Mr. Forrestall:** I wonder if we can take it as an assurance from the Minister of National Defence that the decision to extend the life of the Centurion for two years is that only, and that at the end of that period appropriate consideration will be given to follow-on equipment, if the mutual balanced force reductions arms talks have not created another situation?

**Mr. Richardson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can give that assurance. We have no intention of carrying the service life of the Centurion beyond 1976.

\* \* \*

## AIRPORTS

### PICKERING—DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT BOARD OF INQUIRY

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to indicate the date when his department will announce the long and impatiently awaited independent inquiry respecting Pickering airport and the other transportation needs of the Toronto-centred region?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I hope I can publish the terms of reference of the board of examination tomorrow or the day after, but surely some time this week.

\* \* \*

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### PROPOSED STOREFRONT OFFICES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LOCATION AND PERSONNEL— DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions explaining the program of storefront

## Oral Questions

offices for consumers which he casually announced to the press last week, and could he indicate in such a statement where the offices will be located, when they will be in operation, and the qualifications of the personnel who will be manning them?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have given information about this program, which is being worked on in the department, in other discussions with journalists in the past. I appreciate the hon. member's interest, and when final decisions are taken about the details of the program I will be happy to inform him of them.

**Mr. Atkey:** Did the minister consult with the appropriate provincial ministers or officials of provincial governments before making this important announcement and, if not, on what basis is he asserting a paramount jurisdiction for the federal government in the field of consumer affairs, which can only lead toward a collision course with the provinces in the absence of consultation?

● (1510)

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I have had informal discussions about some matters of concurrent interest with some of my provincial counterparts. My aim is to have the highest degree of co-operation in a constructive way. Certainly I think it will be possible to continue this co-operation in a way that is beneficial to Canadians generally.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I seek the co-operation of hon. members to limit the number of supplementaries between now and the end of the question period. I will recognize the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton, the hon. member for Skeena and the hon. member for Hillsborough.

### LOCALLY OPERATED CONSUMER PROTECTION OFFICES— POSSIBLE FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would the minister inform the House and the country whether the government is prepared to make financial assistance available for municipalities, like Nepean Township in the national capital, for the operation of consumer protection offices as an adjunct to this program?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, one of the aspects to be considered in working out the final details of the program is the practicability of making grants of that type. I should add that I have already answered a written question from another member by saying that if the Nepean bureau made a formal request for a grant we would be happy to consider it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member and the minister that perhaps a question of this nature ought to be put on the order paper. The hon. member for Skeena.