

External Affairs

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that. I will make inquiry.

I have made inquiries and find that it is common practice for Canadian importers of food, and many other commodities for that matter, to have their products packed in the country of origin under the brand name of the Canadian importer.

Imported turkeys must have been processed under conditions approved by the health of animals division of the Department of Agriculture. They must also meet Canadian grade standards and, of course, pay the import duty.

There is, in short, no law or regulation which would prevent any importer from labelling imported goods with his own brand provided the goods pay the established rate of duty and meet the conditions applying to imported goods.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, a question supplementary to the minister's reply: Does the minister not agree that this practice deceives the Canadian buying public?

Mr. Gardiner: I understand it is the practice of the trade everywhere that when an importer does import goods, rather than have to repack them they are packed in the way the importing country requires before he can distribute them in the country to which they are imported.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE
—DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Esquimalt-Saanich): May I ask the Minister of National Defence whether he would inform the house now what code of discipline governs our troops serving in the Middle East? Would a Canadian soldier accused of a breach of discipline be tried by a Canadian or a United Nations court?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Minister of National Defence): I think, Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to answer the question when I have perused the relevant agreement which has been under negotiation for some months and which I understand has just recently been concluded.

Mr. Pearkes: I asked the question some months ago.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT TO
PERMIT DEBATE

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs) moved:

That this house do now adjourn and that, in order to permit a debate on external affairs, standing order 32 (2) shall be suspended in relation thereto.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks a great many questions, all of them without notice and many of them heavy with inference, have been addressed to the government dealing with the situation in the Middle East and it is with that situation that I propose to deal this morning as best I can and in the process I hope to answer the questions which have been addressed to the government.

This Middle East problem has been almost continuously before the United Nations Assembly since I spoke to this house on external affairs last November and that consideration by the United Nations I think has helped not only to bring the fighting to an end in that area but to prevent the conflict breaking out again or even worse spreading. That consideration by the United Nations, moreover, would have been impossible if the policy advocated last November by the official opposition in this house had been adopted at New York.

Mr. Fulton: It would not have been necessary.

Mr. Pearson: The United Nations Assembly of course has its limitations as I have already shown and will try to show again in this discussion. There is no use asking it to do things it cannot do or for which it has no mandate under the charter. Therefore there is no use blaming it if it does not do the impossible. It is also wrong, as I have said before, to use the United Nations as an excuse for national shortcomings and hesitations or as an escape from national responsibility even though these should be discussed and when possible discharged through the United Nations.

The United Nations is no substitute for wise national policy or for close co-operation between friends and allies. It supplements, and essentially supplements, but it cannot replace these necessities. There is no particular value therefore in saying, "Let the United Nations do it", unless we accept the obligation to do our best to make that possible by wise national decisions inside and outside the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, before dealing with some of the details of this problem I would like for a moment to endeavour to put it in perspective.

The problem we have been discussing and trying to solve in New York is merely one aspect of the whole problem of the Middle East. That general problem would be with us if there never had been any trouble over the Suez or over Palestine last October. It comes from the rise of nationalism in the Middle East and from what seems at times to be a morbid preoccupation and suspicion of the people in that area, a suspicion they have of the people who once ruled them; it comes