

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will recognize that that question was asked; at least, it was according to my recollection. If I am wrong the minister may reply. Apparently I am right.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. In view of the fact that the minister has commented on the Shell Oil increase, what is his opinion of the apparent increase which is being voted on today as a result of the Inco settlement?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking the minister to express an opinion, and I do not think that a question asked in this way is acceptable.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase the question, always recognizing the Chair. After we know what the Inco settlement is, will the minister be prepared to come into the House and express an opinion on whether it too may be inflationary?

Mr. Basford: If that should be indicated as a desirable course of action, yes.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister which has to do with his visit to New York. Besides dancing with "Funny Girl", did the Prime Minister preempt his next election by going to see the Broadway play, "Promises, Promises"?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

NATIONAL DEFENCE**FUTURE STRUCTURE OF MILITIA FORCES AND CADET CORPS**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of National Defence inform the house whether the government is contemplating a drastic reduction in Canada's militia forces and, if so, will this involve the various cadet movements?

Mr. Speaker: I should think that the question as asked is an invitation to the minister to make a very general statement of policy. I hope the minister will not attempt to do that at this time.

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. I intended to indicate to the hon. member that I did specify in my announcement of September 19 that the [Mr. Broadbent.]

number of cadets would not be reduced. So far as the militia is concerned, we are currently discussing this matter with the Conference of Defence Associations, and I am sure there is going to be a meeting of minds on what the future structure of the militia forces will be.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, in view of the permanence of the tender to build a new defence headquarters I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether we should understand that the defence review has now been concluded?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, my own interpretation in respect of the defence building is that it is just an indication that we are still in business.

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT**REQUEST THAT STANDING COMMITTEE MEET**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that almost two weeks ago we received the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the evidence taken by the committee at the last session on matters referred to it, will the House leader take this matter up with the chairman of the committee and urge an early calling of meetings?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ARCTIC FORCES**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of National Defence indicate when he will announce his plans in respect of Arctic forces, a subject of much discussion these days?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I hope this may be soon, if that is satisfactory to the hon. member. May I also indicate to him that after the many representations he has made the flights in the North are more regular than before.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIGERIA-BIAFRA—DISCUSSIONS WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it relates to his meeting yesterday