

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there have been continuing exchanges with the two government leaders mentioned by my hon. friend, and other NATO governments, on the NATO situation arising out of the initiative taken by President de Gaulle some weeks ago, and this will be a major subject of discussion at the NATO ministerial meeting which will be held shortly.

TRANSPORT

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—HEARINGS ON PROPOSED TOLL INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): On Friday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport raised a point of privilege during his reply to my question, and you subsequently ruled it out of order. His point of privilege arose in connection with an explanation he gave concerning tolls on the St. Lawrence seaway.

In view of the confusion he left may I now direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that tomorrow is the last day on which submissions can be given to the Board of Transport Commissioners concerning the increase of tolls on the St. Lawrence seaway, and in view of the fact these increases may be granted, will the Prime Minister assure us the house will have a chance to debate these increases in tolls before they are granted?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is the same as that which was asked last week, and cannot be put at this time.

TRADE

MAINLAND CHINA—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the present indications from the United States administration that they are moving toward allowing United States citizens to trade with mainland China, is the government of Canada considering inviting China to set up an unofficial trade office in Canada similar to those which exist in other countries?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I think perhaps that question should be more appropriately directed to my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hamilton: I so direct it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Churchill: You can't bring in the International Control Commission on this one.

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): This question is obviously one that would have to be considered along with the primary question of the relationship between Canada and mainland China. It would have to be considered in the light of our policy about China's admission to the United Nations and the recognition by Canada of the regime in China.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—BASIS OF FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and in his absence I direct it to his parliamentary secretary. I have given notice of this question which is based on the announcement made by the minister. Will the federal government be contributing on the basis of the national average cost or on the basis of the actual cost in each province?

Mrs. Margaret Rideout (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): May I take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to address a question which is most appropriate to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I expect a definitive answer. In view of the fact that Arnold C. Smith, who is Secretary General of the commonwealth secretariat is reported in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* of Monday, May 23 as saying in a speech delivered at Queen's University convocation that governing is more and more rooted in the expert adviser rather than the politician, can the minister inform the house if this statement implies that the functions of members of parliament will become of less and less importance in government?

Mr. Speaker: I see a number of things that are wrong with this question, but I may say it appears to be hypothetical.