

Speaker's Ruling

seconded by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Stewart):

That the Prime Minister advise the House whether or not the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at public expense, patrol and inspect an area of approximately 628 acres of mostly vacant land in the Laurentians belonging to the Prime Minister and, if so, that the House be advised of all reasons for such expenditure of taxpayers' money for personal purposes, which would constitute a further example of living like a leech off the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker: The motion, pursuant to Standing Order 43, requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1410)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE DIET

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before moving to the beginning of the oral question period, may I, on behalf of all members of the House of Commons call attention to the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished delegation visiting us as representatives of the Diet of Japan led by a very distinguished member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Hideyo Sasaki.

Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT BUDGET DURING QUESTION PERIOD—SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I indicated to hon. members yesterday that I would review the points of order which were put forward in connection with questions asked during the question period on the subject of the budget.

I have looked over the records of past parliaments and I find that they are of no more assistance than the arguments which were put forward yesterday. The fact is that in the past there has been a restriction against anticipating orders of the day in the question period. However, during the budget debate and during the debate of the Address there has been a relaxation of the rule, which perhaps gives me guidance along the lines that I ought to permit questions but govern them with some sort of restriction so as not to allow them to monopolise the question period. That point of view has been pronounced before, and I shall try to permit a reasonable number of questions on budget topics.

[Mr. Cossitt.]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED SALE BY FRANCE OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANTS TO SOUTH KOREA AND ARGENTINA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. Has the government been in discussion with France with respect to the proposed sale by France of a nuclear reprocessing plant to South Korea and Argentina, given the fact that such plants could be used in conjunction with the Canadian CANDU reactor to manufacture nuclear weapons? Has the Government of Canada been protesting to France about the proposed sale of this equipment to the two countries I have mentioned?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I, personally, have not been discussing this matter with the Government of France but as I indicated in the House the other day this is the kind of subject we are discussing generally with other countries. I do not know whether any specific discussions such as the hon. member suggests have taken place, but I would suspect that at the London Conference this kind of thinking on the question was made apparent. I am not sure to what extent those confidential discussions can be made public. I apologise for not being able to help the hon. member to any greater extent today.

Mr. Gillies: Given the existence of reports that France is selling this equipment to Argentina and South Korea, would the Government of Canada consider holding up negotiations with South Korea and Argentina with respect to the sale of the CANDU reactors until this matter has been completely clarified?

Mr. Trudeau: With respect to both Argentina and South Korea the federal government has expressed concern about some of the developments. It is fair to say we shall want to know more about the future intentions of the Argentine and South Korean governments because, as the House knows, we do not wish to sell any technology or material in the absence of an assurance that it will not lead to any form of explosive device. In order to ascertain this result, consultations are going on.

Mr. Gillies: I do not wish to be redundant but perhaps I may ask a further question so as to understand the Prime Minister's answer clearly. Is it now the position of the government that it will not go ahead with sales to Korea and Argentina until there is absolute clarification that the sale of equipment from other countries which can be converted through CANDU to nuclear weapons will not take place, and that this will be an absolute condition before Canada will, in fact, make CANDU available to very unstable countries?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, the government has not reversed itself on this. I think it was made clear from the outset that the government, under its new increased safeguards, was not going to make any agreement with a country that might lead to a nuclear explosion, peaceful or