whether we can expect the white paper on foreign affairs to be tabled within the next week or so? I am advised that the gestation period of the document outstrips even that of an elephant.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The period of gestation is over now and we are only waiting for delivery from the Queen's Printer.

Mr. Fairweather: That, of course, does not answer my question. Will the delivery date be within the next few days? We want the report for light summer reading.

Mr. Sharp: Present plans are to provide copies for light summer reading. We expect to be able to table the review before the House rises.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROPOSED BY NEWFOUNDLAND GOVERNMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has he received a proposal from the government of Newfoundland for a $1 billion long-term development program based on a white paper recently presented by that government to the Newfoundland legislature?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. I can inquire of the department whether we have received such a request.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask what additional initiatives his department is taking to bring about regional economic expansion in light of the government's new policy and the new finances available?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this information would normally be given by way of a general statement to the House on motions. I do not think it would be in order for the minister to give this kind of information now.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Was the Prime Minister stating government policy in Vancouver yesterday when he was asked whether he would introduce more liberal abortion laws if the opposition agreed to it, and he replied that he would?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Inquiries of the Ministry
PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—INVESTIGATION OF SUICIDE OF JACQUES BOUCHER

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My question is for the Solicitor General. May I ask whether he has caused to be completed the inquiry into the death of a 16-year old boy by suicide at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary as promised by him on May 27 and as reported in *Hansard* at page 7388, and will he report to the House thereon?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): I regret that the inquiry or investigation I was making into that case is not yet completed. I will see that an answer is brought forward.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE CONFERENCE ON CARIBBEAN POLICY—SCOPE OF AGENDA

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of Canada's deteriorating position in the Caribbean, will the government give consideration to calling a full-scale conference on Caribbean policy this summer?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, there is no intention of calling a conference this summer but we have in mind calling one at an appropriate time.

Mr. Paproski: In addition to dealing with the sugar rebate issue, will the agenda of such a conference deal with tourism, development assistance and immigration?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I should think that a conference of this kind would have a very broad agenda including the items mentioned by the hon. member.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

BANK SALARIES IN RELATION TO PROFITS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I have a question related to one which was asked a little earlier, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the very high profits of the chartered banks. I would direct it to either the Minister of Labour or to his Parliamentary Secretary. Considering the multi-million dollar profits being made by the banks and the fact that an estimated 8,000 bank employees have been working for less than the newly established minimum rate of $1.65 an hour, will the department concerned look into what appears to be a reprehensible situation?