

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of very lively concern to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to my department and to the government as a whole.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If we are not to have a standing committee of this house to which to refer consumer affairs, will the minister see that either a special committee of this house is set up or a joint committee of the house and the other place, such as the one we had before; because there should be somewhere to which we can refer consumer matters.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question previously. I have said that the matter is under consideration. This is also related to the statements that I and the Prime Minister have been making about publishing a white paper on the question of costs. The two questions are related.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

PROPOSED REFERENCE OF LEGISLATION TO HOUSE COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. I wonder whether the hon. gentleman can now answer the question asked previously, as to whether the post office bill will be referred to the appropriate committee so that all concerned can make representations.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the representations that could be made before a committee would have changed from what they have been in recent years. I have met with all interested groups in the past several weeks. I think the bill will stay in the house and in committee.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA—INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO END MILITARY OPERATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I am wondering whether the right hon. gentleman has had a chance to study the speech made by his distinguished predecessor at York University, to the effect that an end of the military operations in Nigeria-Biafra was of prime importance; and as

[Mr. Schreyer.]

a result, is the government considering any fresh initiatives in this regard?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the committee discussing this matter met until one o'clock this morning. We are awaiting any opinions or advice which might issue from that committee.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Another crime slaying has been reported from Montreal. Is the right hon. gentleman now prepared to take this matter seriously and co-operate with the attorneys general—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is not acceptable in this form.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, in connection with the answer to my recent question to the Prime Minister, could he tell us whether it is his intention soon to review officially the 1927 decision concerning the dispute between Quebec and Newfoundland as to the ownership of Labrador? Could he make a statement now?

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

NOVA SCOTIA—BYLAW RESPECTING BURIALS IN ST. CROIX CEMETERY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the acting minister of justice or the acting minister of Indian affairs, whichever one would desire to answer it.

My question relates to a Nova Scotia bylaw which states that no negro or coloured person, nor any Indian, shall be buried in St. Croix cemetery.

A situation arose not long ago in which a child of non-caucasian descent was denied burial there. I wonder whether either of these gentlemen would take a look at this situation in the light of the bill of rights and in the name of equality and humanitarianism, to see whether this is a valid bylaw which should remain in existence.