

Inquiries of the Ministry

State. Is the minister reconsidering the decision of the National Film Board to impose charges on local schools boards and other Canadian groups for the use of National Film Board films?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that this is a matter which is of such urgency that the question ought to be asked at this time. In my view, it is the type of question which normally should be placed on the order paper, but in view of the fact that we will be adjourning perhaps for a few days over Christmas and New Year's the question might be allowed.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State is not in the habit of interfering with the internal management of the National Film Board. However, since I have received representations from many members on both sides of the House in this connection, I asked, as I said earlier, for a report on the reason for such a step being taken. This report has been received, and it is my intention to discuss it with the authorities of the National Film Board.

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

USE OF CYCLAMATES IN DIET FOODS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is based on the fact that the United States food and drug administrator who banned the use of cyclamates was fired. Since there is no clearcut Canadian policy on the use of this product which affects the daily lives of thousands of people who are on diets, can the minister indicate what action has been taken to solve this distressing problem?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Our deadline with respect to the removal of cyclamates stands, as is well known to the House and should be known to the hon. member. With respect to his comments concerning the food and drug administration in the United States, that move has been contemplated for some time and is not related to the cyclamate question.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES FROM BELLEVILLE TO MONTREAL

Mr. Lee Grills (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the [Mr. Broadbent.]

Minister of Transport to whom I have given previous notice. The CNR has decided to move several employees and their families from the Belleville comptroller's office for the Rideau area to Montreal. Will the minister use his good offices and influence to forestall this development which will cause hardship to loyal employees of long standing?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made a representation to the minister.

Mr. Grills: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA-BIAFRA—PARTICIPATION IN TALKS—RELIEF SUPPLIES

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that his legislative assistant, Mr. Ivan Head, is in Lagos today—

An hon. Member: He is in the gallery right now.

Another hon. Member: Ivan the Terrible.

Mr. Thompson: Perhaps he was there yesterday. I wonder whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs might inform the House whether, first, Nigeria intends to take part in the talks that are planned and for which the officials from Biafra are now waiting in Ethiopia and, second, whether or not there are any new plans for the movement of food into Biafra?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is true that Mr. Head of my office met over the weekend with the head of state of the Nigerian government. They discussed essentially means whereby increased relief supplies could be brought into all the beleaguered parts of Nigeria. We have put forward a proposition which might involve the use of Canadian aircraft and that is now being considered by the Nigerian authorities.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ROLE

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): My question is for the Secretary of State. I wish to ask him whether, in response to representations made in the House and elsewhere concerning the future of the National Film Board, he has now given this subject further consideration and is prepared to make a