

report, and in view of the unconfirmed leaks that are made from time to time as to what is in reports can the Prime Minister indicate whether or not this report will be made public?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the leaks will have to remain unconfirmed until the government decides whether it is in the interests of both parliament and the country to make the report public. It is a task force report and is meant to inform the government of certain attitudes and recommendations. It is not intended primarily for publication.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question. Is the government considering issuing a white paper, at least with respect to the recommendations. It is not primarily for publication. intends to implement?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. The government may want to implement certain recommendations made by the task force, if they are found useful. I hope that parts or the totality of the task force report will be published by the government, but I do not want parliament to regard that as a commitment until the government has studied the report. I repeat that task force reports are for the government, whereas royal commissions make reports for publication.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister at least indicate whether the task force will recommend that the government be less secretive in its approach to public affairs?

WATER RESOURCES

LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES AND INDUSTRIES TO COMBAT POLLUTION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In order to help get an effective nationwide anti-pollution program underway, is it the intention of the government in the near future to make available low interest rate loans to those municipalities and industries that wish to instal the expensive machinery that is necessary to remove pollution from waste, in the same way as the government made loans available to industries that wished to commence war production during the last world war?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I find that an interesting suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, that is the minister's usual way of brushing off these matters. Does the minister mean that he is going to give the matter serious consideration?

Mr. Benson: I consider seriously all suggestions made by my hon. friend.

Mr. Hees: Then may I ask a further supplementary. Would he be straightforward and answer my question? Is the minister going to give this matter serious consideration?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: Is the answer yes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Benson: I will write you a note.

Mr. Hees: Just say yes, like a plain, ordinary human being.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I just wonder whether the Chair might have the co-operation of the hon. member, so that the Chair has an opportunity to recognize the hon. member for Joliette.

Mr. Hees: Say it like a man; don't mumble.

[*Translation*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF QUEBEC AND GABON

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the question I asked yesterday concerning the agreement passed between the governments of Quebec and Gabon was ruled out of order, and having heard that the Gabonese Minister of Education had officially met the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) and the Secretary of State (Mr. Pelletier), here in Ottawa, may I ask the Prime Minister if that agreement, which had first been discussed in Ottawa and was passed in Quebec city with the Gabonese Minister of Education, is approved by the Prime Minister or by the Canadian government?

Moreover, I would like to ask him if, after that meeting with the Gabonese Minister of Education, the relations between Gabon and Canada, severed in 1967, are in the course of being re-established, if that has not already been done?