

Inquiries of the Ministry

whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs was stating government policy when he indicated that the Canadian government has decided to take effective action against South Africa because of its apartheid policies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of such a statement having been made but I will look into the matter.

Mr. Yewchuk: A supplementary question. I wonder whether the Prime Minister after he has looked into the matter, would care to indicate what this effective action will be and, second, whether he would indicate that part of this effective action was the minister's refusal to drink South African wine?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is time for a question to be addressed to the Minister of Communications. In view of statements made about the minister in a book published yesterday by his friend Walter Gordon, does the minister plan to sue for libel, or does he accept the charge that in the 1963 budget crisis he was a *vendu* to American corporate capitalism?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member realizes, perhaps even more than I do, that he can ask a question only to the extent that it relates to a minister's administrative responsibilities. I would not think that this question is acceptable.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

QUEBEC—STUDY OF RECOMMENDATIONS RESPECTING CREATION OF NEW JOBS

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

The Quebec general industrial council, on the one hand, and economist MacPearson, on the other, have recently outlined a need for creating new jobs in the province of Quebec and have put forward specific proposals. Could the minister say whether he has instructed his staff to proceed with a special study on the basis of their conclusions?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, to create

[Mr. Yewchuk.]

jobs is the very object of the department. I believe that our initial performance has been good and we intend to speed up the pace in that direction.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Would the minister indicate the approximate number of jobs which will be created in the province of Quebec between now and the end of 1970?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will take the trouble to read the reports tabled in the House, he will find, each month, which plants have been established in the province of Quebec, as well as the number of jobs that have been created.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED REFUSAL OF FRANCE TO GRANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OVERFLY PRIVILEGES

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. What does the right hon. gentleman think are the implications for Ottawa-Paris rapprochement of the refusal of France to grant overfly privileges to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, otherwise known as White Heron in single but diverted flight, Mark II.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is another canard which has no foundation in fact. I am sorry the House is constantly being misled by erroneous press reports. In this particular case there was no request made of the French government that this overflight take place.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister regarding his use of the word "canard". In answer to a question earlier the Prime Minister said the House should take note of what the Minister of Finance said rather than the canard, a story which appeared in the *Toronto Star*. In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance said on Wednesday that the government was not considering placing the Canadian dollar on a floating rate and then on Sunday it was, does the Prime Minister really think we can have any confidence in the statements of the Minister of Finance?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Hees: There is no answer.