

[Translation]

### AIRPORTS

VAL D'OR, QUE.—INQUIRY AS TO OPENING

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Oza Tétrault (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Could he tell us when the inauguration of the Val-d'Or airport is to take place?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** I will take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

### COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS

POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT BY YOUTHS DOING NATIONAL SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State. In light of the kite flown by the minister concerning a new youth policy and the explicit omission from his remarks of a reference to the Company of Young Canadians, does the government propose to disband the Company of Young Canadians and to substitute for it what might be called youth conscript or culture conscripts?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the right honourable member has mainly noticed the omissions in that speech. I was obviously speaking of projects.

Now, I did not mention the Company of Young Canadians as it is not a project but an achievement.

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister received from the provisional council of the company the recommendation of a person to be appointed as permanent director?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pelletier:** Mr. Speaker, I am informed that this proposal is to be conveyed officially to us today.

[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA—COMMUNICATIONS RESPECTING RELIEF SUPPLIES FOR BIAFRA

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my ques-

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

tion to the Prime Minister. During the past several weeks were any communications sent by the government to the military government of Nigeria regarding relief supplies and the allegation that has been made that these relief supplies could not get through to Biafra because of the fact that there was no Nigerian government agreement. Have there been any such communications? Has the Canadian government directly communicated with Major General Yakubu Gowon and asked that relief should be permitted to get through? If there have been such communications, would the Prime Minister not feel it would be appropriate to file the various messages in this connection?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I am somewhat confused by the question, Mr. Speaker. Obviously there have been many communications with the federal military government of Nigeria. The whole question of bringing relief to the suffering people of Nigeria has been discussed several times. As the hon. member knows, there is a Hercules aircraft in Lagos. As the hon. member knows, there is also one in Fernando Po. I might take this occasion, Mr. Speaker, to announce that I have just received word that this Hercules left Fernando Po at 18.15 hours local time with 20 tons of food bound for Biafra.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Trudeau:** As to further aspects of relief for the suffering people of Nigeria, Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure that I understand whether the hon. gentleman wants to inquire about something else.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to find out is whether in the past six weeks the government of Canada has sent any messages to the military government of Nigeria in regard to the question of Canadian relief being made available to those in need.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have perhaps not sent messages directly to General Gowon; we have sent a great many messages through our officials in Lagos, and our high commissioner or his officials have communicated with the federal military government.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Would not the Prime Minister think anyone with "a bleeding heart", to use his expression, would send a message directly to the general who is the head of government? I ask that because the