

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

• (11:10 a.m.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

AGREEMENT TO FORGO SITTING ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, further to the announcement of business I made yesterday, I think there is general agreement to an order of the house that the sitting of the house on Tuesday, January 28, be suspended. Perhaps that could be made an order of the house.

Mr. Speaker: Is it so agreed and ordered?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LATIN AMERICA—REPORT OF CANADIAN
GOVERNMENT MINISTERIAL MISSION

Mr. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with standing order 41 (2), I should like to table in English and in French copies of the preliminary report of the ministerial mission sent to Latin America from October 27 to November 27, 1968, as well as a relevant press release.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING MAINLAND
AND NATIONALIST CHINA

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Speaking on the problem of recognizing China the Prime Minister said on November 8:

Our concern is that the government of Taiwan not be disregarded in the process.

When the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was asked on the evening of Tuesday, January 21, if relations would have to be broken with Formosa, he replied:

I would hesitate to answer that question, but it is quite possible.

Will the Prime Minister now say what the government's policy on this matter is at this time?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. The government's further policy will be announced in due course. When

[Mr. Speaker.]

the Secretary of State for External Affairs replied in the house yesterday to questions asked on the subject, he repeated what the government's position in this matter is.

Mr. MacLean: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question that arises from statements I believe attributed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the Prime Minister now in a position to announce that definitive plans have been made to allow the exchange of views between the government of Canada and the new administration of the United States on the matter I referred to in my previous question, as well as on other matters of mutual concern?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. No definitive plans have been made in that regard yet.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he does not think that the game of uncertainty in connection with the recognition discussions should end, since it is creating difficulty in other parts of the world and particularly at the moment in Formosa. When the Secretary of State for External Affairs last Tuesday night was asked by Mr. Collins on the C.B.C. program "Something Else" if we will have to break relations with Formosa was he stating government policy when he said "I would hesitate to answer that question, but it is quite possible." What is the meaning of those words?

Will the Prime Minister make a statement that will restore a certain degree of hope that the people of Formosa are not going to be sacrificed in any action that is taken?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: There is no question of sacrificing the people of Formosa, Mr. Speaker. The position of the government is that the fate of the people of Formosa should be determined by those people themselves. But in the matter of accusing the government of conducting a shell game of uncertainty—

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is what you have been doing.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman says that is what we have been doing—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Yes.

Mr. Trudeau: —yet in this morning's editorial page of the *Globe and Mail* I read that it was "government-by-surprise." We