

Inquiries of the Ministry

concerning summer employment for students? I ask this question because it has been asked before in the house, and also in view of the fact that during the last few days the problem has been greatly aggravated by grade 13 students being put on the labour market. Would the minister bring the house up to date on this question by making a statement on motions, and would he also give us details of any emergency plan that he has for employing these students?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to consider making a statement next week. I will consider the matter very carefully.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that on May 23 last the minister spoke to the Canadian Vocational Association and talked of a plan prepared by his department as a result of the work of a special task force, will he outline to the house at the same time what this plan is, so the house may be fully aware of what plans, if any, the government has with respect to summer employment?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the statement is made I will be happy to include every relevant consideration in the statement.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

APPEARANCE OF ORGANIZATIONS BEFORE
STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION
OF WOODS REPORT

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. I understand that yesterday the veterans affairs committee agreed to consider the Woods report in September, prior to the house resuming. I wonder whether the minister will give us an assurance that all veterans affairs organizations that wish to be heard will be heard by the committee at that time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I bring to the attention of the hon. member that this question relates to the internal management of the committee, and the question may not be asked in those terms at this time.

Mr. McKinley: Then would it be possible, Mr. Speaker, to ask the chairman of the committee whether the organizations that wish to be heard in regard to veterans affairs could be heard at that time when the committee sits?

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, it was the recommendation of the committee that an invitation be extended to all interested veterans organizations to appear before it.

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—ROLE OF CANAIRELIEF AND RED
CROSS—U.N. DISCUSSION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs which arises out of the minister's meeting yesterday with officials of Canairelief. I am wondering whether he is able to announce any positive conclusions which might have been reached at that meeting.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I had a very useful discussion with Dr. Johnson and the other gentleman who came with him from Canairelief. Dr. Johnson made certain suggestions to us about ways in which we might work together in order to try to get relief supplies resumed to Biafra, and we are studying these suggestions. Altogether I think it was a constructive meeting and I am hopeful that there will be some results.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in dealing with this question the minister said on a couple of occasions that there were still elements of uncertainty that needed to be clarified by the government before it could determine its future policy on matters, and specifically in regard to relief. Can the minister indicate to the house the nature of these uncertainties and when they might become clarified so that some very important action can be taken in this desperate situation?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, one of the most important uncertainties, for example, is the role that the international committee of the Red Cross will play in the provision of relief in Nigeria and Biafra. So far the International Red Cross has been carrying on in the Nigerian territory—that is, the federally controlled territory—and I am still hopeful, and I think that all hon. members will share my hope, that an arrangement can be made for the resumption of relief by air.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when the situation does clarify itself, whether he would consider, if the house is still in