

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DESIGNATED REGIONS**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, I will put my question to his substitute, probably the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Would the minister or whoever is responsible for this field tell the house if the study to establish the so-called designated regions in Canada is about completed? If so, may we expect an early statement on this in the house?

Mr. Speaker: I think this question was asked only a few days ago.

[English]

POLLUTION**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL CONTROLS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport perhaps I might address this question to the well informed Minister of National Health and Welfare. Having in mind the action of the Ontario government over the weekend in announcing strict new controls against exhaust from cars and diesel vehicles, I should like to know whether the federal government is considering taking complementary action?

Mr. Speaker: I would think the hon. member's question is of a very general nature which would invite a statement on motions. However, the minister may wish to reply.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, naturally I would consider making a statement. I can answer very shortly today that the Minister of Transport and myself have been in touch with our respective departments on this matter and hope to have something more informative and more detailed for the house in the fairly near future.

EXTERNAL AID**BIAFRA—ATTITUDE TO CHURCHAID RELIEF EFFORTS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs relating to Nigeria and Biafra. It has been indicated that the negotiations are continuing, but they appear to be protracted. In the meantime could the Secre-

tary of State for External Affairs indicate the attitude of the government toward assisting Joint Churchaid which is attempting to fly relief supplies into Biafra. Has the minister reached any decision with regard to channelling aid through Joint Churchaid?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government has been looking at all the possibilities. Our main problem, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, is not that relief is lacking but the matter of transportation. This is the problem on which we have concentrated. That is the reason we made our offer to provide neutral observers both inside and outside Nigeria. I am also prepared to recommend to my colleagues, and I think they will accept the recommendation, that an addition be made to the appropriation for relief supplies. However, there are indications that this is not the problem at the moment, and I believe we should wait until we see how the negotiations proceed.

Mr. Stanfield: Will the minister say whether the government is prepared to use Joint Churchaid or will it continue its policy to date of channelling relief solely through the International Red Cross?

Mr. Sharp: This really depends upon the outcome of these discussions. I think everyone will agree it would be better for the Canadian government to channel its relief through an agency that supplies relief to both sides, Biafra and other parts of Nigeria. That has been the principle upon which our policy has been founded. If, however, the situation changes the government does not rule out any possibility. Until that situation is clarified I really cannot give any further answer.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, is the Secretary of State for External Affairs implying that Joint Churchaid does not channel relief to the federally occupied parts of Biafra?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, but the application that was made to me was made on behalf of Canairelief which works with Joint Churchaid. They made an application to me and as of the last discussion with them they were supplying aid only to Biafra.

GRAIN**BOX CAR ALLOCATION—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I return to the matter I