

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIGERIA—APOLOGY FOR REMARKS ABOUT
OBSERVER TEAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Will the right hon. gentleman arrange to have tabled a copy of the apology made by the head of state of Nigeria to Canada and other countries making up the observer team, for the intemperate remarks about the team made by Colonel Benjamin Adekunle?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I shall consult with the Secretary of State for External Affairs on what the practice is in this regard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): At the same time, Mr. Speaker, would the right hon. gentleman discuss with the Secretary of State for External Affairs the possibility of tabling the report which no doubt the department has received from General Milroy or the junior Canadian observer?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall consult with him about this also.

FISHERIES**REPORTED PAYMENT OF SALT SUBSIDY TO
PROCESSORS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Can the minister say whether his department is going to continue the payment of the salt subsidy to fish processors even though it has been discontinued to Atlantic fishermen?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the payment of the salt subsidy has been discontinued to all parties, the processors as well as the individual fishermen.

DRUGS**PROTECTION AGAINST COUNTERFEIT
PRODUCTS—CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he shed a little more light on the

report to the task force. I might add that many of the suggestions received are similar to those made by other bodies across the country. They will, of course, be studied in the context of our larger inquiry.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would he consider setting up a separate ministry of housing and urban development because of the difficulty that the Minister of Transport has in handling the heavy portfolios of both transport and housing?

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION**REQUIREMENT FOR KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, has the government considered insisting upon an adequate knowledge of French for immigrants going to Quebec and applying for Canadian citizenship?

[Later:]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister why he did not answer my question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member can ask a question but he cannot, under the guise of a supplementary question, ask why no reply was given to his question. However, the Prime Minister might want to answer it now.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. member, but I did not know he was putting his question to me. Only when he resumed his seat did I realize that he had not put it to anyone in particular, and I had not been listening.

Mr. Matte: Could I ask my question again, Mr. Speaker?

Could the right hon. Prime Minister tell us whether the government has considered requiring that immigrants to Quebec who apply for Canadian citizenship have an adequate knowledge of French?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this matter more specifically concerns the minister responsible for immigration but, with regard to the general policy of the government, I may say that we have not made a decision to this effect.

The hon. member can, if he wishes, put that question to the minister at the proper time.