

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****BIAFRA—ORGANIZATION OF INFORMATION SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to change this most interesting area of questioning but I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of the minister's repeated statements that Canada will not interfere or comment on the political aspects of the Nigeria-Biafra war, will the minister tell the house if his remarks on the nature of the Biafran information services on the C.B.C. news last night reflect a change in his public position or in the government's policy?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, I was simply referring to what is well known; that is, that the information services of the Biafran authorities are extremely well organized.

[*Translation*]

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****QUEBEC—JURISDICTION OVER INDIANS AND ESKIMOS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Can he tell us if he will soon hold talks with the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources about the management of Indian affairs in Quebec? Can he tell us also if the transfer of certain powers to Quebec will be discussed?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to meet immediately with the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources because he has not asked to meet me, but should he want to do so, I would be most happy to discuss with him all aspects of Indian affairs in the province of Quebec.

[*English*]

**NATIONAL DEFENCE****INQUIRY AS TO PAY INCREASES FOR ARMED FORCES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the hon. [Mr. Macquarrie.]

gentleman advise whether pay increases for the Canadian armed forces will be announced before the budget next week and, if not, when?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the increases will not be announced before the budget. I expect that we might have an announcement some time in the course of the next three or four weeks. It should be emphasized, however, that whenever the announcement is made the increases will be retroactive to October 1.

[*Later:*]

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence supplementary to the one he answered a few minutes ago in relation to the statement he would make concerning service pay. Will this statement also include a statement with regard to a possible increase in the service pensions of retired military personnel who retired when rates of pay were much lower than they are at present, with special consideration for those in the lower ranks?

**Mr. Cadieux (Labelle):** First of all, I must say I did not undertake to make a statement. I said that the pay increases would be announced. I undertook to make a statement about the multi-role aircraft. It is not expected we are going to study at the same time both the pensions and the pay increases. What we are trying to do is to adjust the salaries of service personnel and also to do some catching up.

**WATER RESOURCES****PEMBINA RIVER—REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He was here a few minutes ago and I took it for granted this was his day in the house. However, perhaps one of the other ministers will take the question as notice. Has the minister had any discussions with the government of Manitoba concerning the Pembina river development recommended by the International Joint Commission in its submission to the governments of Canada and the United States?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.