

Questions

RECEPTION OF REFUGEES FROM BIAFRA

Question No. 331—Mr. Yewchuk:

Will the Government consider accommodating Biafran refugees in Canada in a similar manner as it has recently accommodated Czechoslovakian refugees in Canada and, if not, for what reasons?

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Applications for admission to Canada from persons from the eastern region of Nigeria affected by the civil war will be given sympathetic consideration. Instructions have been issued to offices in Canada to extend the length of stay of visitors from this area who are already here and, if necessary, to assist them in finding employment.

DOCTORS' FEES, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Question No. 332—Mr. Yewchuk:

1. What percentage of the doctors' schedule of fees is made in payment for medical services under Indian Health Services?

2. If the full fee is not paid (a) what is the reason (b) will the government give consideration to increasing the payment?

3. Will the government consider turning over the administration of the Indian Health Services to the provincial governments and compensate the provinces adequately to enable them to pay the full rate as listed in the schedule of fees?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): 1. Generally payment is made at 75 per cent of the provincial schedule.

2. (a) Indian health services is a program devised to provide essential care to Canada's medically indigent Indians. Authorities charged with operating similar programs, such as municipal and provincial departments, do not pay the full fees based on schedules applicable to private patients. It would not be in order for this department to pay at higher than usual rates. (b) These matters are considered from time to time on a regional and/or provincial basis according to the factors current at the time.

3. The federal government has encouraged provincial governments to provide health services to Indians on the same basis as such services are provided to other residents. When they do so the arrangements for compensation will be a provincial prerogative.

TAPE OF INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER

Question No. 334—Mr. McCleave:

1. Did the Canadian Embassy in Washington request a tape of an hour-long interview conducted [Mr. Whelan.]

by Patrick Watson of the Prime Minister and telecast over CTV in the two months leading up to June 25, 1968?

2. Was the request met?

3. Who requested the same, and for what purpose?

4. Did the Embassy or any official thereof make use of same, and for what purpose?

5. Are there plans to use this tape in the future and, if so, what is the nature of such plans?

6. On what equipment can such tape be used?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. Yes. A request was made in April, 1968 but this request was withdrawn in May as a result of the calling of a general election. The request was renewed in September, 1968.

2. Yes.

3. The request was made by an officer of the staff of the Canadian embassy, Washington in order to evaluate the tape for such limited informational use as might be appropriate in the U.S.A.

4. Yes, for an evaluation screening by officers of the embassy staff.

5. No.

6. The tape can be used on a videotape recording machine.

FISHERIES RESEARCH BOARD

Question No. 338—Mr. McCleave:

1. Is it the intention of the Minister of Fisheries to disband the Fisheries Research Board as such, and to incorporate same within his Department?

2. Does the Minister intend to second the Director of Public Relations of the Board to act on the Minister's personal staff?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): 1. There is no intention to disband the Fisheries Research Board.

2. No.

ISOLATION ALLOWANCE TO NORTHERN
POSTAL EMPLOYEES

Question No. 347—Mr. Peddle:

1. What is the amount of the monthly "isolation allowance" paid to postal employees at (a) Goose Bay (b) Happy Valley (c) Labrador City (d) Wabush?

2. Is any consideration being given by the government to equalizing these allowances?

Mr. Yves Forest (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Post Office Department and the Treasury Board as follows: 1. (a) Goose Bay, married \$65—single \$40; (b) Happy