

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—REPLY TO CANADIAN OFFER TO
PROVIDE NEUTRAL RELIEF FLIGHT
OBSERVERS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can he say whether he or the Secretary of State for External Affairs have yet received an answer to representations made to Nigeria and Biafra with respect to mounting an effective daylight relief operation and utilizing the services of people from our country to act as inspectors in this relief operation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I checked quite recently and we have had no such acceptance. Possibly there is some later news. If there is, the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be able to inform the house about it when he is here.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

WESTERN CANADA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON
TOUR BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is it his intention to give a report to the house on his recent tour of western Canada. Also, does he intend to report about any policy he may have arrived at as a result of his tour?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that depends on how long we sit around.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How long do we have to sit around before the Prime Minister can make up his mind?

Mr. Trudeau: Not very long, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question that is supplementary to the one I asked a few minutes ago. Could the Prime Minister possibly undertake to make a statement to the house tomorrow with respect to his trip to western Canada?

STUDENT LOANS

INQUIRY RESPECTING INCREASE

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Yesterday I asked the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether, in view

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the great unemployment among students, he has any plans to increase the size of student loans. The minister implied that the question ought to be directed to the attention of the Minister of Finance today. Has he any plans to increase student loans in view of the difficulties many students will have in paying for their next session's tuition?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter involving a change in the statute. There is no intention to change the statute during the present session.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—INQUIRY AS TO
DECISION ON SELF-GOVERNMENT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is he now in a position to announce government policy with respect to self-government for the Northwest Territories?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker, we are not ready at this time, but I hope that we will be in a position to do so before the end of the summer.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which is related to the misleading way the minister has answered our questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): My question of privilege relates to the manner he has answered questions of this nature both recently and in the past. For example, on January 21, 1969, the minister said, as reported on page 4551 of *Hansard*:

—I have taken a decision on this matter and submitted a proposal to the cabinet. I hope it will receive approval within the next weeks and I expect to be in the Northwest Territories, to announce the new policy, in early February.

When asked similar questions on other occasions his answer has been "soon", "fairly quickly", and so on. I submit that the minister has been misleading the house by making answers of that kind with respect to self-government for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think I can rule fairly briefly on the question of privilege. I do not think the hon. member can bring this