

Mr. Brewin: The hon. minister answered it by saying he would look into the matter further and report later. Is he ready to report to the house now?

Mr. Sharp: That was the first answer I gave. I gave a supplementary answer later.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE ON NIGERIA-BIAFRA CONFLICT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise the house when he intends to make a statement concerning the recommendations conveyed to him by the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence with regard to the whole Nigeria-Biafra conflict?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): When that report was presented to the house, I did make a statement, but I will review that statement now to see whether it needs to be modified in the light of later events.

AIRPORTS

Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the Province of Quebec does not seem to want a new airport, and since the workers in Montreal and Air Canada do not seem to want to work, while we know that workers in Winnipeg will work, could the management—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the house will have to surmise the rest of the hon. member's question.

Some hon. Members: Go on.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

"DON MESSER'S JUBILEE"—RESOLUTION OF NEW BRUNSWICK LEGISLATURE

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My question is for the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. Will the hon. gentleman send along to the appropriate C.B.C. authorities the resolution which members of the New Brunswick legislature passed expressing unanimous agreement on the need to retain Don Messer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Inquiries of the Ministry

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ALLEGED MONOPOLISTIC ACTION OF OIL COMPANIES

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. According to news reports this morning a statement has been made by an executive of the National Automotive Trade Association inferring that because of monopolistic action by the oil companies Canadians are paying too much for gasoline and auto parts. In view of this statement and its implications as far as the cost of living of every Canadian is concerned, would the minister institute an examination of this industry to insure that Canadians are being given fair treatment?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Of course, this is a matter which is constantly under surveillance by the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act. I would also point out that I have not seen the statement to which the hon. member alludes, but the T.B.A. report is presently before the Economic Council of Canada for consideration, together with the report recently made in Alberta on the same subject. I expect to have a report from the Economic Council some time this spring.

Mr. Baldwin: Always we have surveillance but never action.

Mr. Howe: Mr. Speaker, might I ask the minister to make a statement some day in the house on these reports he is receiving, so all the people of Canada may understand what is going on.

Mr. Basford: If and when that is appropriate, Mr. Speaker, yes.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister ask his prices commission to make a report in the matter?

COMBINES

FAILURE BY SUGAR REFINERIES TO OBEY COURT ORDER

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It has to do with monopolies. Has the minister received a formal complaint charging that Canada's big three sugar refineries have failed to obey a court order restricting them