

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister not agree, because of the critical remarks of the chairman—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question is argumentative.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGES TO JEWISH REFUGEES

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the government extend to Jews of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt privileges similar to those granted to the refugees from the invasion of Czechoslovakia?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have received representations on this question from various individuals, and these are under consideration. I am informed today that the Canadian Jewish Congress will be making some formal representations which will receive serious consideration.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBMISSION OF WOODS REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Can the Minister of Veterans Affairs advise when he or the government intends to take action on the recommendations of the Woods Committee report respecting the organization and work of the Canadian Pension Commission? Can he say when he intends to refer this report to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to advise the hon. member and the house that at the present time we are preparing a white paper respecting veterans pensions and the Woods committee recommendations. This white paper is being given high priority and we expect later on this session to be able to refer both the white paper and the Woods Committee report to the House of Commons committee.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ZAMBIA—CANADIAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the

Prime Minister. Has an actual or tentative agreement been reached with Zambia for Canada to supply that country with military training instructors and other defence help?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe there has been an agreement in existence for some time whereby we do extend certain training facilities to Zambia and to the Zambian army.

Mr. Harkness: As a supplementary question, at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference did the Prime Minister discuss this matter with the Prime Minister of Zambia, and assure him of further or increased support along this line?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, the matter was not discussed, and I shall have to check my own memory as to whether it is Zambia or Tanzania with whom we have this agreement.

[Later:]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think I should refer again to the question asked me by the hon. member for Calgary Centre. I said I would check my memory. I have checked my memory and the answer is that there is no agreement with Zambia. I also remember that I have not discussed that subject with the President of Zambia.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. On the agenda he tabled a few moments ago concerning the Federal-Provincial Conference next week there is an item called "mechanism of federal-provincial relations." Does this envisage discussions for the establishment of a permanent federal-provincial secretariat based in Ottawa?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the general subject of the mechanism of federal-provincial relations is one of the subjects on the agenda.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is obvious, Mr. Speaker, but I am asking whether the federal government would propose the establishment of a permanent federal-provincial secretariat based in Ottawa?

Mr. Trudeau: When I spoke of machinery, Mr. Speaker, I of course covered that subject; but there will be mention of that. There will