

Alleged Failure to Aid Biafrans

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest again the hon. member should be given an opportunity to make his speech.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The hon. member has clearly implied that the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) has not taken the sort of position that has been taken. The hon. member for Greenwood specifically said that our party was critical of the stand the Labour party of Great Britain took on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a question of privilege in the normal sense of the word. Would the hon. member kindly resume his seat? The hon. member who has the floor should be given the opportunity to make his presentation to the House.

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Speaker, there is at times a great difference in the quality of research undertaken in the House. May I suggest, with deference to members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, that they have not done very much sound research recently. I have in my hand a photostatic copy of a resolution of the Organization for African Unity. It concerns Nigeria. The resolution was passed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at Addis Ababa in September, 1969. This is what it says in the final paragraph:

Makes a solemn and urgent appeal to all governments, international organizations, humanitarian institutions as well as to all political, moral and religious bodies in the world to facilitate the implementation of the present resolution and to desist from any action, gesture and attitude likely to jeopardize the efforts of OAU in finding an African solution to the Nigerian crisis.

I hear a knock on the door of the chamber, Mr. Speaker.

● (5:50 p.m.)

THE ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (6:00 p.m.)

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bill:

An act to wind up the Canadian Corporation for the 1967 World Exhibition and to authorize the writing-off of certain costs and the deferral of certain payments connected therewith.

It being eight minutes after six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—NIGERIA-BIAFRA—
ALLEGED FAILURE TO TAKE MEASURES
TO RELIEVE STARVATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Brewin:

That this House regrets that the government has failed to take adequate measures to relieve massive starvation in Nigeria-Biafra and, particularly, regrets its repeated refusal to assist Joint Church Aid and Canair relief operations which have continued to deliver substantial relief despite great hazards, and urgently requests the government to change its policy in this respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault).

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It was my impression, and I am sure the impression of many hon. members in this House, particularly in view of the comments of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey) and others before supper, that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) would be here this evening not only to listen to the remainder of the debate but to indicate the results of his conversation just before the supper hour with the representative of Canair relief. I am wondering whether the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacDonald) or some other minister could inform the House whether the Prime Minister will be here some time this evening to indicate the results of his conversations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I might point out that in my view that is hardly a question of privilege. If someone would volunteer this information, I suppose there is a way so to inform the hon. member.