

Inquiries of the Ministry

are not yet in a position to respond to the question posed by the hon. member, but I am taking it very seriously and am looking into it.

SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT UPHOLDING
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR INDIANS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is a related and not a supplementary question. You can take your pick. Has the minister had an opportunity to review the sentences of those Indian people held for violations of the Indian Act and perhaps now held contrary to the decision in the Drybones case?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have asked for a report. I just got it this morning and I have not yet had a chance to digest it completely.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DESTRUCTION OF CANAIRELIEF PLANE—
PROTEST BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the destruction by Nigerian aircraft of a Canairielief plane at Uli airport as it was unloading food. Has a protest been lodged with the Lagos government, either by his officials or through the Prime Ministers' emissary, over this outrageous attack on a plane which was on an errand of mercy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all regret very much the loss of this plane and are very happy that at least the crew escaped. I think the hon. gentleman will agree, however, that this is the reason why we should try to support daylight flights. These food planes that fly by night are mixed up with arms planes, and it is not surprising in a civil war if some of them are destroyed.

SOCIAL SECURITY

INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that government action on all pension and social security matters seems to have to await the government's white paper on social security, can the minister say whether it will be possible for the government to table that white paper when we return in January?

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the government will be ready to table the paper by that time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that on the late show the other night I did not get an answer to this question, may I again ask the minister whether, in view of the delay in tabling the white paper, the government will consider providing for an interim increase in the old age security pension?

Mr. Speaker: Obviously this is a repetition of a question already asked. I wonder if it is in order to ask it again today.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was going to raise a point of order but all I will say is that, since I did not get an answer on the late show the other night, I shall give notice of the question for another late show.

PENITENTIARIES

POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING
EMPLOYEES' SALARIES

Mr. Melvin McQuaid (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Since this is not his day to be in the House I thought it might be directed to the acting minister, who should be here but isn't. In view of the urgency of the matter I will have to ask the second acting minister whether the President of the Treasury Board is taking any action to meet the demands of guards in federal penitentiaries for an increase in pay, and thereby avoid an imminent strike by these people?

Mr. Speaker: I gather this is a repetition of a question asked within the last few days, but if the right hon. Prime Minister wishes to reply at this time there is no objection to it from a procedural standpoint.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was going to reply as you did by saying the question had been dealt with, but if the hon. member could possibly manage to be here tomorrow the President of the Treasury Board will be answering questions.

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that tomorrow is the last day before the recess, will the Prime Minister require all ministers to be here to catch up on the backlog of questions?