

Inquiries of the Ministry

ascertain whether this was so. Unfortunately the commissioner for foreign affairs of Nigeria is in hospital. He is ill. I am still pursuing my inquiries.

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Does the statement mean the minister has now found the lost officials from Equatorial Guinea?

Mr. Sharp: We are pursuing the matter diligently, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax): May I ask a further supplementary question. In the minister's consideration of alternative equipment for the movement of food and supplies that have been placed in depots, would he study the possibility of using rotary wing aircraft if the present landing strips or roadways are not suitable for the Hercules or Caribou?

Mr. Sharp: The situation in which we are now is that the International Red Cross has told us quite definitely they prefer that Canada supply the Hercules. This was the request we had from the International Red Cross. The Hercules, I believe, will be able to fly into Biafra territory if not into the federal Nigerian areas. We are now exploring alternative possibilities.

[Translation]

EXPO '67**INQUIRY AS TO SALE OF EXPO EXPRESS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lionel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Does the minister or his officials intend to ask the SUTRI company to reconsider its decision to purchase Expo-Express, so that this means of transportation may become the property of the city of Montreal?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I am now conducting an investigation on the matter, Mr. Speaker. It is possible that SUTRI may wish to withdraw. I will meet this evening the Minister of Trade and Industry of the province of Quebec in this connection.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Charlevoix wants to ask a supplementary question.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): I would like to address a supplementary question to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker.

The minister has just stated clearly to the house that he has received representations from the directors of the company to the effect that the company was withdrawing its bid.

Mr. Pepin: I mentioned that this was said. I am conducting an investigation.

Mr. Asselin: Did the minister have any other discussions with officials of the city of Montreal, in order to confirm to them what he has just said?

Mr. Pepin: First I want to meet my provincial colleague.

AGRICULTURE**APPLICATION OF FARM STORAGE POLICY TO EASTERN CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

Can he tell the house why the measure he announced last night to provide help to the farmers who need larger grain storage facilities does not apply to the farmers in the province of Quebec and the Maritimes?

Mr. Speaker: That question could be put when the house studies the budget.

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**BRITISH COLUMBIA—COURT DECISION RESPECTING LEASED RESERVE LAND**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. The other day I inquired about a decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia relating to Indian reserve lands which is of extreme importance. I wonder if the minister has any reply he would like to make.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I have now had an opportunity of reading the judgment of Judge Kirke Smith. I understand that because of a dispute over costs the judgment has not been entered as yet so the period for appeal has not begun to run. However, the solicitor for the plaintiff will send to the department all the pleadings and relevant material connected with this case.