

Inquiries of the Ministry

However, it would be going too far to suggest that the United Nations operations in the Congo are in imminent danger of collapse.

Mr. Argue: A supplementary question. Will the minister say whether Canada has been canvassed for a larger contribution to this force or whether we have made any offer of further assistance from this country in that regard?

Mr. Green: No, Mr. Speaker. As the Prime Minister pointed out yesterday, there has been no request for Canada to supply additional troops. I believe that requests have been made of other countries which are not now supplying troops.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): So that we may have the matter clear, may I ask this question. Is it understood that the secretary general, in the note which he has sent to countries whose troops are in the United Nations force in the Congo, has not actually requested a further bolstering of that force by such member states?

Mr. Green: No, Mr. Speaker. The request would not be made in general terms of that kind. The request would be made to specific nations and, as has been pointed out, there has been no request that Canada should supply further troops. Canada actually has done very well when you compare her effort with the contributions made by most of the other member states of the United Nations.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**INQUIRY AS TO CHANGES IN TAX SHARING ARRANGEMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillington): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether any changes whatever are in contemplation with respect to the tax sharing arrangements with the provinces for the fiscal year 1961-62.

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker the ambit of discussion at the dominion-provincial conferences on fiscal questions has been confined to measures in the period commencing April 1, 1962. There were two matters that I recall in particular that could have a bearing on the period prior to April 1, 1962, but broadly the discussions have been directed toward new arrangements to follow the conclusion of the present five-year period.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Has the minister's attention

[Mr. Green.]

been drawn to a reported statement by Mr. Frost to the effect that it would be impossible to present a budget, that is in Toronto, until the federal government position is known in this matter?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): My attention has not been called to this statement. I heard a reference to it on the radio this morning. Obviously this is a budget matter, and it would not be proper for me to comment on the plans of the Ontario government in relation to budget matters. Naturally I am not acquainted with the budget plans of that government, but it is conceivable that whatever fiscal arrangements may be arrived at in respect of the period commencing April 1, 1962, might well have a bearing on the budget plans of that government for the present year. I just do not know.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The minister is not suggesting is he, that he is not on talking terms with the premier of Ontario?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Oh, no, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that thought would not have crossed the mind of any hon. member but the hon. member for Essex East.

Mr. Hellyer: He just would not allow the premier of Ontario to get a word in edgewise.

Mr. Pickersgill: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Argue: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I think I ought to hear the supplementary question of the hon. member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister can inform the house whether a date has been set for a federal-provincial conference involving the provincial premiers in order to deal with fiscal matters.

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Argue: Can the minister say whether a conference will be held within the next month or two?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): I would not expect one would be held within the next short period.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, if I may ask a supplementary question, is the government contemplating sending any communication on this matter to the provincial governments in the next month?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Yes, Mr. Speaker.