

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the right hon. Prime Minister a question relating to the forthcoming federal-provincial conference. Is he prepared to release to the house and to the country generally the federal position papers, so that the members of the house and the country will be more fully informed and be able to follow the discussions. Also is the Prime Minister in a position to release the agenda for the conference?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. In answer to the leader of the New Democratic party, earlier, I believe I indicated some dates we were proposing. These dates have been accepted by the general consensus of the provinces. The result will be that on Monday next the secretariat will release its report of the committee of officials, and also the agenda, whereas most of the provinces will be releasing on the following Thursday, next Thursday, their position papers on various propositions they will submit at the constitutional conference. One or two provinces may not observe this particular deadline, but that is the one that has been reached in agreement with most of the provinces—next Thursday.

**EXTERNAL AID****EXPEDITIOUS DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will the minister explain the lag reported by the O.E.C.D. between preliminary appropriation of external aid and the actual distribution of the aid to developing countries, and will he reassure us that measures will be taken to ensure that Canadian assistance approved by this parliament for developing countries reaches them more expeditiously.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I would have thought that would be an excellent question to discuss on the estimates of the department. We will certainly be ready at that time. It is the object of the government to try to reduce this lag which has arisen for reasons, some of them very important reasons, and to ensure that our program is carried out well and quickly.

**Mr. Fairweather:** In the light of the report by the O.E.C.D. that private Canadian contributions to international development have slackened, has the government any plan to encourage greater involvement by the private sector in international development projects.

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

**STUDENT LOANS****CURTAILMENT OF GRANTS TO FOREIGN STUDENTS ENGAGED IN DISORDERLY ACTS**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I posed a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning foreign students who are here under our aid programs. I am wondering whether the minister is now in a position to answer the question. Apparently it took him a bit by surprise.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I am still caught by surprise, Mr. Speaker. I did not intend to be here today.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT****NOVA SCOTIA—ARDA REPORT RESPECTING NORTHERN COUNTIES**

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary to the minister for rural development whether he has an answer regarding the ARDA task force report.

**Mr. Russell C. Honey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The report to which my hon. friend refers I think is in respect of a joint study for the federal government and the province of Nova Scotia. There must be concurrence on the part of the province in respect of making the report public. It is the joint opinion of the federal government and the government of Nova Scotia that publication would be premature.

The main finding of the report is that progress for these counties will depend on developments in the rest of the Atlantic region, and therefore there is more research for us to do jointly with the province, before development plans can be prepared.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of this report I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary might confer with the minister and consider publication of those parts of the report which might be helpful to the over-all program of regional development?

**Mr. Honey:** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to confer with the minister. The hon. member will understand, of course, that we would have to obtain concurrence from the government of Nova Scotia, but I will take this up with the minister.