

Inquiries of the Ministry

As far as I am concerned, that is in respect of long term policies, my department as well as several others are conducting at this time a study on the textile industry in Canada, and I hope to receive in a few months the conclusions of that study, which will enable me to answer this question.

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Would the minister be kind enough to have an investigation made on the footwear industry which is going through a very difficult time?

[*English*]

HEALTH AND WELFAREMEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
BLIND PERSONS

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister advise whether he has received a request from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Canadian Federation of the Blind for a meeting with himself and his colleagues in the near future, and if so, has a date been set?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the precise details but I do believe I am meeting with them next week.

CIGARETTES—SIGNS IN AIR CANADA
AIRCRAFT

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the appalling increase in Canada in lung and cardio-vascular diseases has the minister had any meetings with the Minister of Transport regarding the signs on Air Canada planes stating "cigarette smoking only"?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, but I will take the matter under advisement.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSBIAFRA—BOMBING OF CIVILIANS AND
RED CROSS OUTPOSTS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister consider sending a special representative again to see General Gowon, this time to request him to take steps to have the consistent bombing of hospitals and other non-military targets in the Biafra area stopped?

[*Mr. Pepin.*]

Mr. Lorne Nysirom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Because of the most recent bombings of Red Cross hospitals and headquarters in Biafra will the Canadian government now consider requesting a full scale investigation of these atrocities by some international agency such as the United Nations in order to alleviate conditions for civilians?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I thought any such action by the United Nations would be useful I would not hesitate, but I doubt if this could come before the United Nations, since it is an internal matter affecting the internal affairs of a member state of the United Nations, which would not agree to it being discussed.

Mr. Nystrom: As a supplementary question, would the Canadian government issue a formal protest to the Nigerian government deploring the most recent bombing of hospitals?

Mr. Sharp: I think it would be just as appropriate to make representations that the war should come to an end by the cessation of the resistance.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate have passed Bill C-151, an act to amend the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act, without any amendment.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House
Ottawa
27 February, 1969

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. D. C. Abbott, P.C., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 27th day of February, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain Bills.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Louis-Frémont Trudeau
Brigadier General

Assistant Secretary to the Governor General.