

Inquiries of the Ministry

EDUCATION

ASSISTANCE TO ALBERTA YOUTH CORPS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. Has the Secretary of State received a submission from the province of Alberta requesting assistance in financing the Alberta Youth Corps, a voluntary organization active in the field of education and mental health in that province?

Mr. Speaker: I fail to see the urgency of the question, but if the hon. member thinks it is urgent I shall be pleased to return with him at the time of the adjournment.

Mr. Mazankowski: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

DRUGS

CANADIAN ACTION IN MARKETING OF ANTIBIOTICS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Last week, Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare about the decision of the food and drug administration in the United States to ban the marketing of some 78 drugs because they contained antibiotics suspected of exposing patients to unnecessary risk. May I ask what action the hon. gentleman's department has taken to ban similar drugs in this country? The minister promised to consider this question and reply at a later date, and I wonder whether he now has anything to report to the house.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I hope to be in a position to report on this question, perhaps tomorrow.

UNITED NATIONS

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF NIGERIA-BIAFRA CONFLICT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he proposes to take any new initiative with regard to the conflict in Nigeria, particularly in view of the apparent breakdown of efforts by the appropriate association of African states in this area. In particular I would ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he proposes to take any initiative at the United Nations in this regard.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Since the breakdown of the negotiations undertaken by the Organization of African Unity we have looked at this question again, and the same difficulty appears—that we are not likely to obtain sufficient support in the United Nations for this question to be raised in a constructive way. The hon. gentleman is aware, as I am sure are all hon. members, that the problem arises from the fundamental difference which now exists as to what should be the future of Nigeria. Until there is some agreement on this I do not think negotiations can proceed.

Mr. Stanfield: Is the hon. gentleman making any effort of an orderly sort to persuade the countries involved to reach agreement as to an appropriate method by which to proceed?

Mr. Sharp: As I have said before, there is no lack of intermediaries. There are many, including ourselves, who would be only too happy to act in such a capacity. But until there can be agreement on whether there ought to be one Nigeria or an independent Biafra, I really do not see that there is much to be done.

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to ask the minister whether he is now prepared to disclose to the house the message he sent to the government of Nigeria and the suggestions made to that government some weeks ago, which he declined to disclose until ample time had passed for the message to be delivered.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I had better answer that question tomorrow. I shall take the question as notice. I have a report and will make it tomorrow.

BIAFRA—DISCUSSION OF ACTION FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Would the hon. gentleman tell us whether any progress is being made in connection with the proposal of the Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, endorsed by him I believe in his speech on November 26, that international action for humanitarian relief should be considered in the United Nations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If the hon. gentleman will look up *Hansard* he will find I have answered this question.