

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: The question is this, if we recognize the People's Republic of China as the government of China, will Taiwan accept that position?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs, did he on May 19 last say this: "We won't sacrifice our relations with the government of Taiwan to do it."?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: In other words, to recognize—

Mr. Hees: Did you say it or not?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure of the right hon. member's punctuation, but I have the impression that when he asked the minister to confirm or deny a statement made outside the house—

Mr. Hees: Let's hear from the Prime Minister!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will reword my question. Does the minister still believe and agree there should be no recognition of communist China, if as a condition there is going to be any sacrifice of the government of Taiwan?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said before—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Which is nothing.

Mr. Sharp: —that if the government does recognize the People's Republic of China as the government of China, relations between Taipei and Canada will of course be affected, since the government of the republic of China does claim jurisdiction over the whole of China, and we cannot have two conflicting authorities.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Who is going to be sacrificed?

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Can the minister assure the house that no substantial discussions will be entered into unless there is an assurance from the Peoples' Republic of China that there will be adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. There are many countries with which we have very good relations that, unfortunately, have not yet adhered to that treaty.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
FOLLOWING REPORT OF
TASK FORCE**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister. On Wednesday last the Minister of Transport tabled the report of the task force on housing and stated he would shortly place before the government what he regarded to be urgent recommendations arising out of that report. Can the Prime Minister tell the house how soon we can expect a statement from the government on this matter?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Transport who is responsible for housing did state that he would submit to cabinet a memorandum which would express his views as to what should be done and in what sequence. He has not done that yet. He is working on it.

Mr. Brewin: Can the Prime Minister say whether the government is at present considering the recommendation as to a minister responsible for housing?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. I repeat that this task force report will be translated by the Minister of Transport into a document to be submitted to cabinet, expressing his policy as he wants it considered by cabinet at this time.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the minister prepared to make the necessary changes in the Canadian consumer council, in light of critical remarks made by the chairman of that recently formed advisory council, wherein he said, "The 24 members—"

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member must ask his question directly. He cannot quote a statement made outside the house in order to advance a proposition.

Mr. McGrath: I will rephrase my question. Does the minister plan to change the make-up of the council, in light of the criticism of its chairman?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.