

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if any such representations have been made they have not been made to me.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CANADIAN DESERTERS**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of National Defence a supplementary question. Are Canadian servicemen who are deserters or who are A.W.O.L. still subject to the same disciplinary action?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): There is no change in our regulations, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacInnis: Has the defence secretary of the United States discussed with the minister the red carpet treatment being given to these criminal deserters from the United States?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacInnis: Then I would ask the new high priest of peace whether he realizes that his own Canadian government retains the death penalty for Canadian deserters?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF SUDAN**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a similarly straightforward question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has Canada extended diplomatic recognition to the new government of Sudan and, if not, what are the government's plans in this regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker; the matter is still under consideration.

ACCEPTANCE BY CANADA OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the result of the NATO conference just completed, is it the view of the Secretary of State for External Affairs that in future Canada's opinions will be accorded any weight at international meetings in view of

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

the fact we made it very clear that we are not willing to undertake or live up to our international obligations?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone in this house should suggest that Canada has at any time not lived up to her international obligations. I think we have lived up to them, perhaps even more faithfully than any other member of the NATO community.

Mr. Hees: That may have been true up until now, but in view of what the minister has said, will he advise the house if passing the buck and welsing on obligations has now become acceptable in international circles?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRAIN**REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION ON PRAIRIES**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and in view of the representations by the Federation of Agriculture and the Association of Rural Municipalities, is the government giving urgent consideration to the situation that exists in western Canada and may we hope for some report before the house rises?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we answered a question on that subject a moment ago.

EXPROPRIATION**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL ACTION**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice in reference to the recent announcement of expropriation by the dominion government of 1,800 acres of land in Prince Edward Island, indeed in my own constituency, a process described as highly unusual and high-handed by the Attorney General of our province. Will the minister give assurance that this matter will be fully investigated in the compassionate spirit of the press release which accompanied the introduction of the new expropriation bill?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I certainly will, Mr. Speaker.