

the amount of relief that would reach the people of Biafra, and until this has been explored I do not think it would be in the interests of the Biafrans to make a decision on the other matter.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE OF SYDNEY MEDICAL CLINIC

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that several employees of the DVA medical clinic at Sydney have been served notice that their services are no longer required after January 31, and in view of the fact that the medical officers are being removed from this clinic making it apparent that the clinic will be closed, thus causing hardship, would the minister look into the matter and ascertain if this clinic cannot be retained for the benefit of the veterans?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): We do have to reduce the number of our employees, but we will continue to give the same excellent service to all veterans, including those at Sydney.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I regret that I do not agree with the minister's statement. However, would he kindly advise the House before we adjourn how soon the Prime Minister and his government will stop treating the veterans of this country like animals?

[Translation]

FINANCE

BANK OF CANADA—RELAXING OF CREDIT RESTRICTIONS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering the lack of short-term credit and the high interest rates which have put businesses in a precarious position, would the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Bank of Canada will ease credit restrictions in order to enable the less prosperous regions, including Quebec, to fight unemployment more effectively in 1970?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot make such a promise. On several occasions the Minister of Finance told the House that the Bank of

Inquiries of the Ministry

Canada encourages chartered banks to make credit more readily available precisely in regions where unemployment is high rather than in those where there are inflationary pressures. I have been informed that banks do indeed follow this policy.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INQUIRY AS TO TABLING OF SMITH REPORT CONCERNING MONTREAL WATERFRONT

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Will he state whether the government intends to table or make public the contents of the Smith Commission report relating to the Montreal waterfront, and if this will be done before the Christmas recess?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): The Smith report was sent for translation perhaps two months ago. The translation has now been completed, and I have had an opportunity to study the report. It has some rather broad implications and recommendations which involve the Department of Transport. I want to discuss the report with the Department of Transport, and therefore I am quite certain that it would be impossible to table it, if we decide to do so, before the Christmas recess.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

JUDGMENT IN CASE OF HUNTING INFRACTION BY ESKIMO

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, on several occasions I have asked the Minister of Justice about the position of the government with regard to quashing the conviction against an Eskimo in the Northwest Territories in light of the government's position on Arctic sovereignty. I would now like to ask the minister if he is able to answer the question or make a statement in view of the fact that the reasons for judgment indicate the offence took place on sea ice beyond the shore, and that the same court assumed jurisdiction in a murder case 60 miles off shore in Queen Maud Gulf?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I indicated some time ago to the hon. member who addressed that same question to me that, although the judgment of Mr. Justice Morrow did refer to that case, the Crown Attorney has advised me the evidence is not all that clear. Although Mr. de Werdth indicated his intention to appeal the case, we