

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member feels that this matter should be pursued further?

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for answering my question. I should like to ask him whether we should conclude from his answer that this indicates a situation with a one man government, or that the ministers are afraid to stand up in this house and answer in respect of their responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take it the right hon. Prime Minister would like to reply.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour would like to ask a supplementary question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that we might easily go on to another subject.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council, in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition and the right hon. member for Prince Albert are not in the house today, whether the minister can advise if to his knowledge a duty day roster has now been established by the official opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question posed by the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North, and I should like to direct it to the right hon. gentleman across the way. In view of the fact that the question deals with air pollution and noxious gases which are spread through the air, sometimes causing death by asphyxiation, would the Prime Minister not say whether an investigation could be carried out through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will raise the matter with the departmental officials.

FISHERIES**PURCHASE OF SALT COD FOR SHIPMENT TO BIAFRA**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take the Prime Minister off the hook. He seems to be getting tired. We are getting a little tired as well. Is the Minister of Fisheries prepared to respond

[Mr. Trudeau.]

to the question which was taken as notice yesterday by his parliamentary secretary, as to whether the purchase of five million pounds of fish from the Atlantic region will result in an increased price to Atlantic fishermen?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the federal government has taken and is now taking out of the hands of these fishermen about 20 per cent of one year's production. That is a sizeable quantity of fish. Current purchases are at market prices. I do not know what will happen to the market price in the immediate future, but I hope the government's action will have the effect of firming up the price generally and on a world wide basis.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, is this fish being purchased by the Canadian government for transport to Biafra, or by the Atlantic trade?

Mr. Davis: The fish is being purchased by the Canadian government through various agencies in Newfoundland; for instance, the Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited, the Canadian Atlantic Salt Fish Exporters Association, and numerous other groups and individual firms in the trade.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCES FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have another question arising out of federal-provincial relations. Would the right hon. Prime Minister inform the house whether it is the government's intention to cease or change the method of providing assistance to the provinces in relation to post-secondary educational institutions such as universities?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is the subject of an agreement between the federal and provincial governments. It is something that was embarked upon in previous years, and it is continuing at the present.

FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO COST OF SHORT TERM BORROWING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I would like to direct