

which the minister can answer yes or no. Does he not think the farmers now need special assistance, in view of the horror tale which was unfolded last night?

**Mr. Olson:** Yes, sir; and I suggest the best way we can get it is to pass the farm legislation.

**Some hon. Members:** Bring it in.

#### DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

##### INQUIRY AS TO ACTION RESPECTING OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings):** I have a question for the Prime Minister. On September 18, in answer to a question, the Prime Minister stated that the government intended to proceed with negotiations dealing with offshore mineral rights, and they expected soon to lay a proposition before the provinces. My question is, since five weeks have passed, has the government presented such a proposition to the provinces, and will this house have an opportunity of dealing with this matter in the near future?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, in the very near future. It is a matter which has already been dealt with in cabinet, and we are waiting for the appropriate time to proceed.

**Mr. Hees:** Has the proposition been presented to the provinces, or will that be done in the near future?

**Mr. Trudeau:** In the near future.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF OUMIET ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** May I change the subject from agriculture to prisons, Mr. Speaker, and direct a question to the Solicitor General? Since matters affecting all phases of penology have been referred to a standing committee through the medium of the estimates, can the minister advise the house when we can anticipate receiving the report of the Oumiet royal commission which was appointed over two years ago? Has any deadline been set for the receipt of this report?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I hope to receive the report by the end of the fiscal year.

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

##### EXTERNAL AID

##### NIGERIA—DELAY IN USE OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Don Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since it now appears that the Hercules aircraft was provided for the International Red Cross to carry relief supplies between Fernando Po and Nigeria or Biafra are unable to use Nigerian airstrips, I should like to know whether the minister intends to substitute the Caribou or some other lighter aircraft which could use the airstrips now in existence?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** So far as the Hercules are concerned that are awaiting clearance to fly from Fernando Po to Biafra, we fully expect that when the formalities are cleared with Equatorial Guinea these planes will fly. Difficulties have been caused by the fact that the established airstrips within the control of the federal government of Nigeria do not seem to be in proper condition to accommodate the large Hercules aircraft. I therefore communicated with General Wrinch the other day and asked him to inquire of the International Red Cross about the possibility of supplying other planes.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** May I ask a supplementary question. In view of the discussion during the question period yesterday, can the minister tell us whether there has been an effort to obtain the views of the Nigerian government with regard to permitting Canadian Hercules aircraft to fly from Sao Tomé over Nigeria to Biafra?

**Mr. Sharp:** No. As I said to the hon. gentleman yesterday, we fully expect we will get these aircraft into operation between Fernando Po and Biafra.

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Will the Secretary of State for External Affairs confirm a statement made by Dr. Arikpo in New York on October 8, in the presence of the minister's parliamentary secretary and several other members of parliament including the hon. member for Egmont and myself, to the effect that there would be no objection on the part of the Nigerian government to mercy flights from São Tomé to Biafra provided the Red Cross inspected the cargo?

**Mr. Sharp:** This question was asked yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and I said I was trying to