5268

February 7, 1969

Inquiries of the Ministry LEGAL AID TO INDIAN FAMILIES AFFECTED BY EXPROPRIATION

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since, according to the reply of the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the government of the province of Manitoba has not asked for any renegotiation of the Nelson river power development, is the minister's department providing, or does it intend to provide, legal counsel or legal aid to those Indian families affected by Manitoba Hydro expropriation procedures?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the question was put to me a few days ago, and I answered that the government of Manitoba had given the people concerned financial assistance for legal advice, in order to find a solution to the problem.

[English]

Mr. Schreyer: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the government of Manitoba is the expropriating authority in this case, does not the minister think that the federal government should be providing legal counsel for these people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is argumentative.

AIR TRANSPORT

RATE ON NORDAIR SERVICE TO HALLBEACH

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether the Canadian Transport Commission recently approved a 73 per cent rate increase for services provided by Nordair to Hallbeach in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that this question should be placed on the order paper.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO COMPLETION OF REVIEW

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can indicate at this time when it is expected that the review of Canada's external affairs policy will be concluded? Does he expect it will be concluded during the current year?

[Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humbolt).]

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I expect it will be concluded during the current year. Of course the review has been advanced in some parts more than in others. There are some decisions we have already taken—the decision concerning China, the first steps concerning the Vatican and our trip to South America. Those were all parts of the review. Certain stages have been reached in various parts of this review, but the bulk of it will be announced later this year.

HOUSING

REMOVAL OF TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Does the minister intend to withdraw his recommendation to abolish the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials, in view of the statement made in the house last night by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would think the question as asked is argumentative and should not be accepted at this time.

REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW-ING REPORT OF TASK FORCE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether it is his intention to make to the government a package recommendation of a comprehensive nature with regard to housing, or whether it is his intention to give priority to certain aspects of this matter. I ask the question particularly in view of the reported shortage of mortgage money in the month of January and the continuing escalation of interest rates relating to mortgage money for housing.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend will know that it is not customary to indicate what will be included in recommendations to cabinet; but I think it would be fair to tell him that the matters I am most interested in are those which I feel have the greatest urgency and which should be acted upon within a matter of weeks, or months at most. These are the things which will be given the greatest priority.

TORONTO—OFFICIALS TO COME TO OTTAWA FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, directed to