

Does the minister intend to confer with the municipal and provincial authorities in order to decide on a line of action and remedy the situation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, this is a general situation with which we are dealing at the moment. We have contracts with the provinces and the municipalities and we are doing all we can.

[*English*]

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): There are 67,000 people out of work in the city of Montreal, a number equivalent to the whole working force of one city the size of Regina. Will the minister meet with Mayor Drapeau and see whether he can work out a plan to deal with this situation?

[*Later:*]

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): I wish to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the unsatisfactory answers given by the Minister of Labour and the minister of manpower to the questions asked them in connection with the serious plight of those who are unemployed in the city of Montreal, where the number out of work has now risen to the highest point in eight years, would the right hon. gentleman speak to these two ministers to see whether some more serious attitude toward unemployment in our largest city—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA—CANADIAN EFFORTS TO END CIVIL WAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the war between Nigeria and Biafra. Considering that a member of the Commonwealth is supplying arms to one party in this dispute, can the minister advise whether Canada is taking any initiative within a Commonwealth context to bring to an end this flow of war materials and, hopefully, to the war itself?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I indicated on Thursday last, I believe, that the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, with the approval of most Commonwealth countries, was in the

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process of mediation, and it was generally felt that his endeavours in this regard ought to be supported.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NORAD—HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the importance to Canada of current negotiations for the renewal of NORAD will the right hon. gentleman assure the house that the renewal agreement will be submitted for discussion in this house before it is signed?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that assurance. The government will have to take its responsibilities and then submit its decision to the house, as is normally done in connection with these matters.

INQUIRY AS TO PURCHASE OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is it the intention of the Department of National Defence to proceed with the purchase of four Lockheed C-141 Starlifter transport aircraft?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question ought to be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Crouse: May I point out that there is urgency attached to this question, in view of the fact that defence planners have known since 1965 that they would want about a dozen Starlifters to make the army truly mobile and to refuel Canada's new fighters—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. This appears to be argumentative. The hon. member knows that if in his view there is urgency attached to the matter it can be discussed on the adjournment motion.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT OF PENSION INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Prince Edward-Lennox): I wish to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs the following question. When can the war veterans of Canada expect to receive the