

Inquiries of the Ministry

fact that the foreign minister of Zambia, Mr. Simon Kapwepwe, is in the Speaker's gallery. May I express on behalf of all of us our pleasure in welcoming him to Canada at this time.

In answer to this question, the government of the United Kingdom sent us a message, prior to the announcement in the British House of Commons yesterday, in the form of a letter directed to the Prime Minister of Canada. We were therefore informed in advance of the announcement made by the British government which has the constitutional power in this matter. The secretary-general of the commonwealth is not a party to these talks.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Canada has very materially assisted the government of the United Kingdom in dealing with matters concerning Rhodesia, in the transportation of oil to Zambia and the like, is the Canadian government being consulted by the British government with regard to the activities of the British government, or is the Canadian government being only informed of those activities?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I indicated in the reply I just made that the British government through its Prime Minister advised the government of Canada, through its Prime Minister, of the informal talks that were taking place. The holding of such talks is of course entirely a matter of British responsibility, since the British government has the exclusive constitutional authority over Rhodesia in respect of the area to be covered by the talks. Naturally all commonwealth countries have an interest in this development. It is on that account that the British government has consulted not only Canada but other commonwealth governments.

Mr. Nesbitt: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I take it from the minister's answer that the Canadian government is not being merely advised of what is going on, but that the minister actually is being consulted by the British government as to the course to be taken.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): There are continuous consultations in this, as in other matters, between the British government and other commonwealth governments.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask a further [Mr. Martin (Essex East).]

supplementary question in connection with the oil air lift in which Canada participated in Africa. Does the termination of this air lift mean that as far as Canada is concerned the reasons for setting it up no longer require it to be carried on?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, that is right. I may say, in the presence of the foreign minister of Zambia with whom members of the government have been having talks, that the foreign minister has indicated the gratitude of his government to Canada for the contribution it made to Zambia with respect to this air lift which ends at the end of this month.

Mr. Diefenbaker: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the thanks, but the question was, does the ending of this air lift mean that the problem of Zambia securing the necessary oil no longer continues? That was the question.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Yes. I thought it was clear from the statement that the implication must obviously be that the air lift has served its purpose and is no longer needed because Zambia has the required oil.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Fine. We have the answer for that at last.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Red Deer.

Mr. Thompson: My question has been asked, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question which hinges on the attitude of the Canadian government toward the situation in Rhodesia. I would ask him when the government intends to take similar action with respect to the government of South Africa where a similar situation prevails.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I think the hon. member will recognize that the two situations are not really similar.

INCOME TAX**DISTRIBUTION OF T-4 SLIPS TO QUEBEC RESIDENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): My question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It has been