

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** The estimates of the Unemployment Insurance Commission will be before the Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration tomorrow. I am sure the hon. gentleman could satisfy his curiosity there.

**Mr. MacEwen:** Can't wait.

**Mr. Mackasey:** However, it is not my intention to bring in amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act this session. When I do bring them in, I intend to make them all-embracing and, perhaps, to change the policy of the commission entirely.

## TRADE

## WHEAT—STORAGE FACILITIES IN IMPORTING COUNTRIES

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** This is another question to the Prime Minister on the subject of wheat. Having regard to the problem which Canadian producers seem to be experiencing in selling wheat for export at a reasonable price, and realizing the value of providing service to customers, would the government consider setting up Canadian storage facilities inside the borders of importing countries so that wheat could be readily available whenever such countries decided to buy some.

## EXTERNAL AID

## BIAFRA—DESTRUCTION OF CANAIRELIEF MERCY AIRCRAFT

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I wonder whether the minister will answer the questions asked yesterday by my leader, and also my supplementary question, taken as notice by the Acting Prime Minister and concerning attempts by Nigeria to destroy Canairelief aircraft?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when I returned this morning my attention was drawn to these questions. The position is as follows:

The Nigerian government has often made it clear that such flights would be entirely at the risk of those who made them, since arms deliveries continue from Sao Tome into the same airstrip at the same time as the relief aircraft. It is to avoid these risks and to permit an effective relief operation that the government hopes Colonel Ojukwu will agree to daylight relief flights into Uli and Obilago. In the circumstances, it would not be possible to

justify a protest on their behalf to the Nigerian government.

Concerning the second part of the question, we have received expressions of concern from the Nigerian government as to the reported intention of Canairelief to establish an airstrip in rebel territory which, according to its promoters, is to be used exclusively for relief flights. With three known airstrips at least—Uli, Obilago and one near Uli/Ihiala—in the rebel area or a few miles away, none of which are now being used by day for relief deliveries, the Nigerian government obviously finds it difficult to see the justification for yet another airstrip to be built at great cost while present alternatives are ignored by the rebels.

## DISCUSSION OF INITIATIVES AT TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT NIXON

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister regarding some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition. I wonder whether the Prime Minister can inform the house if conversations were held with President Nixon about initiatives that the United States government has taken regarding relief shipments, and possible initiatives that the Canadian government might take with regard to relief.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the question of Nigeria was discussed by the President and myself but in rather general terms. As regards the United States position, I do not think I am in a position to make any comment.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** A further supplementary question. With regard to the second part of my question, could the Prime Minister indicate whether the President expressed to the Prime Minister any particular steps that our government might take with regard to assisting in the relief effort?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, there was no such suggestion of any such steps.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he still plans to live up to his assurance that the prices commission will be appointed before the end of March, or has he decided