

LABOUR CONDITIONS

C.N.T.U.—INCENTIVES TO IMPROVE
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question to the Prime Minister. In its brief to the government the Confederation of National Trade Unions has pointed out that unemployment in the country has reached alarming proportions, especially in Quebec, and urged the government to devise economic incentives to correct the situation. Could the Prime Minister tell the house whether or not it is his intention to follow up the unions' proposal?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

I maintain that this matter is of an urgent and extremely important nature, since the rate of unemployment in Quebec is currently 8.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Timiskaming.

[English]

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

CONTROL OF EAST BLOCK SPACE BY
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister, through you, whether he is in a position to advise the house when arrangements will be completed as to the turning over to the House of Commons of control of the East Block, necessitated by the need for office space made necessary by changes in translation and other services?

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—REDUCTION OF RELIEF FLIGHTS
CAPACITY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in view of the continuing starvation in Biafra, will the Canadian government exert diplomatic and political pressure on the Nigerian government to stop the terror bombing that has recently had the effect of reducing drastically full capacity relief flights at the Uhi airstrip?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be more useful to put pressure on

Inquiries of the Ministry

Colonel Ojukwu to agree to daylight flights; then the possibility of bombing would be greatly reduced.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

SHARED PROGRAMS—FREEZE ON BUSINESS
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Will the freeze on the federal contribution to the federal-provincial cost-sharing program dealing with business educational facilities be melted, and if so, when will the thaw take place?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend must be talking about technical schools rather than business education. What was indicated to the provinces was the amount that we felt we could advance in the forthcoming year. If I have misinterpreted the question, I would appreciate my hon. friend telling me so.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister could take the questions as notice, because the information I have is that it concerns business educational facilities.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BIAFRA—POSSIBLE EXECUTION OF REFUGEES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he has conveyed to our member of the observer team in Nigeria the concern of this country about recent reports that all male Biafran refugees in Port Harcourt are in danger of being executed? Will the minister undertake to report to the house the results of any investigation of this matter by the observer team?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to convey this information from the hon. member if it is information. I will have inquiries made.

MIDDLE EAST—SAFETY OF CANADIANS ON
AIR ROUTES

Mr. Barney Danson (York North): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I ask the minister what steps the government is taking to ensure the safety of Canadians from non-aeronautical hazards when travelling by air in the Middle East. Second, what can be done to prevent