

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I cannot accept that the British Prime Minister has made any such announcement as is suggested in the question. I assume that my hon. friend's question is based upon a story carried by the *New York Times* service this morning.

The informal exploratory talks between British and Rhodesian officials, which were adjourned last week for a short period, were designed to see if a basis for negotiations exists. These talks began last month, and the British Prime Minister told the British parliament on April 27 that the British position remained that:

—none of us in the house was prepared to accept a settlement which condoned an illegal act or which failed to satisfy the principles which were laid down by my predecessor when he was prime minister and by the present government.

The sanctions program is continuing in full force. The exploratory talks in London took place without any commitment and without interference with the course of the economic pressure that is being put on the illegal regime in Rhodesia.

[*Later:*]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and is in connection with Rhodesia. Does the minister consider that a massive program of education for the native Africans would be helpful in order to bring them up to the educational standards required for the franchise under the present constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion, and his question is of a very general nature which cannot be accepted.

**Mr. Churchill:** Then, Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question. Now that sanctions obviously have failed, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what proposals he has to help solve the problem in respect of Rhodesia.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot admit that the sanctions program has failed. I hope my hon. friend will accept my view that this does not seem to be the situation. The hon. member will recall that at the conference in Lagos, attended by the Prime Minister, this was one of the proposals made to help bring about, in the long term, a solution to this problem.

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### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Churchill:** The minister now has said that educational assistance to the native Africans in Rhodesia was one of the proposals made at the Lagos conference. Would the minister then reverse the program he undertook earlier this year of withdrawing Canadian educational authorities from Rhodesia; would he return them to this area so that they can assist in this program?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** The Canadian government certainly has no objection to continuing its technical assistance program for Rhodesia. There were nine Canadian advisers involved in that program. This was not entirely the result of a decision taken by the Canadian government. Rather, the security considerations involved prompted the persons concerned themselves to take the initiative.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### GRANTS FOR RECREATION CENTRES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. E. Brown (Brantford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can consideration be given by the Department of National Health and Welfare to recommending grants for the construction of social and recreational centres for senior citizens equal in amount to grants by any province under an act of the legislature for such purpose?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It is difficult to interpret this question. I am not sure if the hon. member is asking for a legal opinion, but in any event the question should be put on the order paper.

**Mr. Brown:** Ten o'clock.

[*Translation*]

### AGRICULTURE

#### QUEBEC—SHORTAGE OF FEED GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Has the minister received a telegram from R. O. Blanchard Ltée which reads as follows:

Alarming situation as a result of the longshoremen's strike—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows that under the rules he cannot read a telegram in such a way when asking a question. He can ask a question concerning a telegram, but he cannot read the message itself.