

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

familiar with the details of the situation the hon. member referred to. If it is a matter of immediate interest and does not relate to past circumstances, perhaps the minister will want to reply.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, Cohn-Bendit has been admitted to Canada for a period of six or seven days. He is not a prohibited person so far as Canadian immigration laws are concerned and has therefore been admitted to Canada.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NIGERIA—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH FATHERS KEVIN AND MICHAEL DOHENY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I gave him notice of it. Is the minister or the Prime Minister going to accept the invitation to meet with Fathers Kevin and Michael Doheny in order to discuss the most recent developments in the former Biafran region?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had no representations from Fathers Kevin and Michael Doheny, but I would be very happy to see them if they should ask to see me. I have had a telegram from Donald MacPherson, Director of News and Features for the CTV network in Toronto, but I have not had any contact with these gentlemen.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ROSTER SYSTEM—ABSENCE OF CERTAIN MINISTERS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Prime Minister prompted by the absence today of six ministers who, according to the roster system, are supposed to be present. The system, incidentally, is illegal and contravenes the provisions of Standing Order 5 of this House. Will the Prime Minister revise the present roster system or take disciplinary action against the ministers who are not present and thereby are depriving hon. members of the opportunity to discharge their duties responsibly?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are thinking of taking disciplinary action against the flu virus.

NIGERIA—ACCESSIBILITY OF WAR ZONE TO OBSERVERS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On Friday last I asked the Prime Minister a question and he said he would ask the minister to consider it. My question is: Will the government request the Nigerian government to enable observers to visit immediately the areas formerly occupied by Biafran forces in order that they might be in a position to observe and report from the areas in which the main threat of massive starvation is believed to exist?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I missed the key words in the question. What were the hon. member's opening remarks?

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I said by way of preamble that I asked this question of the Prime Minister on Friday, but perhaps that is beside the point now. Will the government request the Nigerian government to enable observers to move immediately into those areas previously occupied by the Biafran forces where the greatest threat of starvation apparently exists?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we depend to a very large degree upon the observers themselves, and this applies not only to ourselves but also to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the governments of Sweden, Poland and the United Kingdom. So far there has been no indication that the observers have been denied access to any parts. Indeed, the observers have been in some of the most troublesome spots quite recently. In addition, many other observers are now appearing in the area—for example, newspapermen, representatives of the United Kingdom government and General Wrinch of the Red Cross. Therefore we ought to be most careful in making representations which would throw doubt on the good intentions of the Nigerian government.

NIGERIA—COST OF MILITARY OBSERVERS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On two occasions last week I asked the minister to inform the House who is paying for the cost of the military observers