

formal debates there is really not much time; an hon. member, or a minister, delivers a speech and disappears; it becomes a monologue, rather than a dialogue. If we wish to make progress, there must be real dialogue, not monologue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I may say I am as aware of that as is the hon. member. But we are not in committee of the whole and it is not our practice to proceed as if we were. I allowed the hon. member to ask a question and I now propose to allow the hon. member for Greenwood to ask a question. After that, I propose to recognize the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker).

Mr. Brewin: I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether his impression of demands of a political nature made by the Biafran regime are based upon direct contact by any Canadian representative with that regime, or on secondhand information from some other organization. If the latter is the case, would the Prime Minister not seriously consider making some form of contact with the Biafran authorities—I am not asking for diplomatic recognition—as a result of which it could be accurately determined whether that regime was in fact insisting not on military consideration but on rather impossible political consideration?

Mr. Trudeau: I said two days ago that we have been in contact with the Biafran authorities. The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) was in touch with them in New York at a ministerial level; Canadian government officials have made contact at their level in Geneva, London and elsewhere.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Brewin: I am talking about the guarantees.

Mr. Trudeau: These Canadians have had various contacts with the Biafran authorities. I cannot say whether the particular guarantees to which the hon. member refers came directly from Canadian officials or indirectly through Canadian officials after they had been negotiated. I do know that most of the negotiation at this stage was conducted by the Red Cross and by Ambassador Ferguson. Surely, there is no suspicion on the part of the hon. member that the Red Cross is trying to find some way of not sending mercy flights to Biafra?

Mr. Stanfield: No one said that.

Alleged Failure to Aid Biafrans

Mr. Trudeau: No one said that, but—

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Greenwood is now rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Brewin: The idea suggested by the Prime Minister was furthest from my mind. I never intended to say that the Red Cross was dragging. I merely asked the Prime Minister whether he had had any direct contact concerning the guarantees, or whether he was basing his judgment on second or third hand reports. I think he has now given us the answer.

Mr. Trudeau: If the second hand report was from the Red Cross—

Mr. Stanfield: Well, say that. That is all we want to know.

Mr. Trudeau: Why did the hon. member say: "If it is not first hand, why don't you get it first hand?" You cannot on the one hand say that to get reports second hand from the Red Cross is beautiful and on the other hand that I must get them first hand. We trust the Red Cross.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Before recognizing the hon. member for Prince Albert I might interrupt the debate to announce the questions to be debated at the time of adjournment tonight. The hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Post Office; the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett)—Indian Affairs; the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean)—national defence.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—NIGERIA-BIAFRA— ALLEGED FAILURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO RELIEVE STARVATION

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Brewin:

That this House regrets that the government has failed to take adequate measures to relieve massive