

*Biafran Relief*

besides military observers, representatives of all parties of the House who could examine the problems on the scene.

If members of Parliament can attend United Nations meetings as observers, can go to Paris, to India or to any other country, why would it not be possible for representatives of each party accompanied by military observers to visit the scene of the hostilities in order to get clear and precise information about the situation and to report to the House so that the government will be in a position to take the steps necessary to eliminate misery from that part of the world.

[English]

NIGERIA-BIAFRA—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 43 I ask unanimous consent of the House to move the following motion:

That the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be instructed to take under consideration immediately the plans of the government to give assistance to the victims of the Nigerian-Biafran conflict; that the committee exercise continuing surveillance over the efforts of the Canadian government in this respect; and report with all possible speed to this House as to the adequacy of the measures proposed and recommend any further measures it considers appropriate.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, we on this side of the House would be quite prepared to have the committee study this question if it is agreeable that the question on the motion be put without debate today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Hon. members have heard the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, which can be accepted only by unanimous agreement. There may be a difficulty in that the President of the Privy Council has placed a condition on putting the motion which places the Chair in a somewhat embarrassing position. Since there can be no debate under the rules I can only ask whether there is unanimous agreement to the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, though I am willing to hear any member on the point of order raised by the President of the Privy Council.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to raise one point. The motion has been placed before the House under Standing Order 43.

[Mr. Dumont.]

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No, it has not.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** All there is for the House to decide is whether or not unanimous consent is forthcoming. I do not think that any member or any party in the House can put a proviso on their approval. As far as we are concerned we are prepared to give unanimous support.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I am in agreement with the point of order raised by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, who raised the same point I had in mind. I was trying to be helpful to hon. members, but according to the terms of Standing Order 43 I can ask only whether there is unanimous consent to the putting of the motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

Is there unanimous consent of the House for the Chair to put the motion submitted by the Leader of the Opposition?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** As there is not unanimous consent, the question cannot be put to the House.

[English]

## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

### PUBLIC SERVICE—FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS

Question No. 2—**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):**

How many vacancies by category of position in each department of the Public Service were filled by persons (a) from outside the Public Service and (b) from inside the Public Service, between July 1, 1969 and October 1, 1969?

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the Public Service Commission as follows: The total number of appointments made under the Public Service Employment Act between July 1 and October 1, 1969, in each category of positions, is as follows: (a) From outside the Public Service: Administrative and Foreign Service, 428; Administrative Support, 465; Operational, 328; Scientific and Professional, 524; Executive, 5; Technical, 286.

(b) From within the Public Service: Administrative and Foreign Service, 613; Administrative Support, 552; Operational, 52; Scientific and Professional, 98; Executive, 36; Technical, 47.