

Inquiries of the Ministry

there are in western Canada thousands of students who are looking for work, I wonder if the minister will look into the activities of some departments of government which are sending to western Canada thousands of students from parts of the country other than western Canada. Those students are taking up jobs which might be filled by western Canadian students seeking jobs.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to look into that.

EXTERNAL AID**BIAFRA—ROLE OF CANAIRELIEF AND RED CROSS—BLOCKING OF NIGHT FLIGHTS BY FOREIGN PILOTS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister now tell the house about the results of the constructive meeting he had with Canairelief and Dr. Johnson, about which on Thursday he expressed hope, with respect to relieving the grim situation in Nigeria-Biafra?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Dr. Johnson put certain suggestions to us which might help in attaining some acceptable method of inspecting cargoes being flown into Biafra. These proposals are being pursued.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether Canada has joined with the government of Great Britain in suggesting specifically to the federal Nigerian government that night flights be resumed on a temporary basis in order to avoid imminent mass starvation?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, some days ago, as I reported to the house, the government was in touch with the Nigerian authorities, urging them not to interfere with the provision of relief. That would include night flights. I repeat what I said before, that there would be a good deal less trouble, less danger for the pilots, and greater opportunity for provisioning of the people in Biafra if daylight flights were permitted.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact there is imminent danger of starvation, can the Secretary of

[Mr. Woolliams.]

State for External Affairs indicate whether any further steps are being taken by the government of Canada to join with Britain or any other countries in bringing about the necessary measures to ensure that the relief will come to the people who are threatened with starvation?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not think we should lose hope about the possibility of getting the International Red Cross to resume flights on conditions acceptable to both sides. We are working very hard on these objectives, which I am sure are shared by everyone.

Mr. Stanfield: It is not difficult to ask us to be hopeful about the International Red Cross, but can the minister expect to be hopeful about the Canadian government's efforts?

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the house whether he has any information as to the report that foreign pilots, presumably Russian and British, are flying the new sophisticated aircraft that are blocking night flights as far as relief to that area is concerned?

Mr. Sharp: I have only the reports I have seen in the press. From the knowledge I have I would say the reports I read in the paper are exaggerated.

[Translation]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**SURVEY OF EFFECTS OF POSTAL RATES ON MAGAZINES**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I wish to put a question to the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

As regards the implementation of the new Post Office Act and postal rates, does the minister intend to have his officials study the implications of the disappearance of several magazines and publications and to issue a report on the matter for the information of hon. members?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I have discussed the matter at length with the newspaper owners and all those affected by the increased postal rates and explained the difficulties involved in an eventual deficit of \$130 million. To reply directly to the hon.