

Inquiries of the Ministry

available under the auspices of the International Exchange Association?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we have continued the agricultural exchange program but we have reduced the numbers involved because we want to provide employment opportunities for Canadian students. The concrete step we are taking is to make these job offers that become available first to our Canadian students so that they will have the first chance.

EXTERNAL AID**BIAFRA—PROPOSALS TO PREVENT STARVATION**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of reports of increased starvation in Biafra resulting from the fall of the city of Umuahia and in light of indications that there is likely to be a long war, has the government of Canada any new proposals to alleviate the increased starvation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member is asking for a rather general statement. We have almost reached the end of the question period. Perhaps the hon. member might put his question in such a way as to invite the minister to make a statement on another occasion.

[Translation]

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice but I see that he just left his seat.

[English]

AIR CANADA**STRIKE OF MECHANICS—COMMUNICATIONS REQUESTING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION**

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour which is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacEwan) relating to the Air Canada strike. Will the minister say whether he has received letters and telegrams from the Canadian people asking him to take action on the strike, and settle it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the question as asked is proper. I do not think it is proper to ask simply whether

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

the minister has received letters, telegrams or representations.

Mr. Allmand: May I rephrase the question, Mr. Speaker?

Hon. Bryce S. Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I received three telegrams suggesting that I join the New Democratic party, one suggesting that I was a communist, three others, I believe, suggesting compulsory arbitration, and several serious telegrams from other groups of people. Certain union groups within Air Canada are protesting the use of non-union personnel within the company. That, I think, is hardly conducive to good industrial relations for the future within the company.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Are we to take it from the minister's answer, Mr. Speaker, that he will be activated and stimulated in proportion to the number of letters and telegrams he receives from Canadians in such a national emergency?

Mr. Mackasey: It will take more than a telegram to get me to join the N.D.P.

THE MINISTRY**INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER FOR YORK WEST**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Is he now prepared to appoint the hon. member for York West to the cabinet?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. member has asked that question. It is such a refreshing change from the endless questions he has asked about Devco. I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition and the friends of the United Mine Workers have finally exercised greater control over the members of the Conservative party, particularly the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond. I understand the union has scorned his destructive attitude toward—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, a few moments ago Your Honour suggested a proper course of conduct to a member of the opposition. I suggest the answer given by the Prime Minister was possibly amusing—I do not know.

Mr. Trudeau: Did you think the question was serious?