

Inquiries of the Ministry

made here today, that happens with the United States market, then we will have no alternative. I hope these alternatives can be discussed in an open and responsible way, and that is what I urge upon the house.

Mr. Stanfield: I hope the type of answers given by the two ministers who reported this morning does not reflect that the ministers had a very bad time.

Mr. Sharp: I hope the Leader of the Opposition, when he makes comments upon these discussions, will realize that if we are going to make progress with our friends we do not reveal in an open session matters which they discussed with us confidentially.

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—PERMISSION FOR DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of the renewed threat of mass starvation in Biafra, will the government accept the proposal made by Canairelief and use its good offices with the federal government of Nigeria to get it to accept or permit daylight flights into Uli airport?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had representations from this organization which I intend to reply to shortly. I just received a telegram. I can assure the hon. member that we have been trying for months to get daylight flights accepted. The preliminary response from Colonel Ojukwu indicates that daylight flights are available with certain conditions. Whether these conditions are acceptable to the Nigerian authorities, we are not sure.

BIAFRA—CANADA-U.S. MINISTERIAL MEETING
—TRANSPORT BY SURFACE CORRIDOR

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): During the minister's discussions in Washington, did he discuss with the Secretary of State of the United States what action Canada can take to assist in the United States plan for transporting relief by surface corridor as agreed to by Biafra and as suggested by the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this was not a specific subject of discussion at our meetings. I did have an opportunity of talking to the

[Mr. Sharp.]

United States Secretary of State on this subject. Moreover, we have been in constant touch through diplomatic means in support of this initiative of the United States.

FINANCE

KENNEDY ROUND—AGREEMENT BY U.S. TO
TARIFF REDUCTIONS—BENEFIT
TO CONSUMERS

Mr. J. G. Lind (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Minister of Finance. Is the United States government agreeable to reducing its tariffs on our products in the same proportion as we have done in the Kennedy round of tariff reductions, as announced in the recent budget?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the matter of a reduction of our tariffs by an average of three percentage points on some \$2 billion worth of exports was designed for purely Canadian purposes and we sought no *quid pro quo*. It was designed to help in the fight against inflation in this country. However, I did stress in Washington that we in the Canadian government looked forward to further major negotiations with regard to reduction of non-tariff barriers as well as tariffs in the future.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has made it very clear that machinery cannot be introduced to require importers to pass on these tariff reductions to consumers, would the minister not agree that his move has been a complete failure?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's statement that the 3 per cent reduction in Canadian tariffs was to fight inflation, and in view of the fact that the Americans are also concerned about that problem, did the Canadian government seek any *quid pro quo* from the United States government prior to the minister making the announcement in his budget speech that Canada would reduce tariffs by 3 per cent?

Mr. Benson: No, I did not discuss with the American authorities or with anyone else the decision of the Canadian government to take action to fight inflation in this way.