

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, if these four are all being called so they can be objected to, perhaps they can be allowed to stand.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): They are being called for that purpose, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps they can be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motion stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**HOUSING****REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION BEFORE
SUMMER RECESS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether the government has definitely decided to bring forward legislation on housing before the anticipated summer recess?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): That is still the plan, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I don't think the minister answered my question. Has the government definitely decided to bring forward such legislation?

Mr. Hellyer: It was decided weeks ago, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: In drawing up the proposed legislative program of the government between now and the end of the session, what priority is being given to housing legislation on the basis of the minister's task force report?

Mr. Hellyer: High priority.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): As a supplementary question, in view of the high priority which not only the minister but we on this side of the house and the country give to it, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he would discuss with the government house leader the possibility, in fact the certainty of bringing in this legislation within 30 days?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I shall gladly discuss that with him, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister who stated that this matter of legislation was urgent, when he introduced the report of the task force in January, still feels that it has the same measure of urgency as he spoke of then?

Mr. Hellyer: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is even more urgent now than it was then.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Is it still the attitude of the government, as stated by him in this house on February 14 as recorded at page 5525 of *Hansard*, that until the constitution is amended governments are to a large degree powerless to solve housing and urban problems either alone or in co-operation with other levels of government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would think the hon. member is asking the Prime Minister to make a statement of policy, which I suggest cannot be done at this time.

Mr. Stanfield: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether, in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance has rejected the recommendation concerning the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials, and since the Prime Minister has rejected the recommendation that a federal department of housing and urban affairs should be established, there has been any change in the minister's support for these two major recommendations?

Mr. Hellyer: No; my support to the extent that it has been given, Mr. Speaker, remains unchanged. Actually, Mr. Speaker, I was very careful to point out that any reduction in taxation could only be made when there are surpluses of revenues, but at the rate my hon. friend and his colleagues are bringing forward ideas for new expenditures I am not at all sure that this will ever take place.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—DEPLOYMENT OF AIR TRANSPORTABLE
UNITS**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the statement attributed to him in the