

both by Biafra and Nigeria and the importance of a neutral third party to supervise such distribution, is the government taking steps now, perhaps in concert with the United Nations relief effort, to see whether third party mediation and assistance might be provided?

Mr. Trudeau: As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, there have been several volunteer offers from third parties—African states and United States officials—to arrange for relief operations to that part of Nigeria called Biafra. There is nothing the Canadian government can announce to the house at this time regarding its further actions.

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

INTEREST RATES—APPEARANCE OF MINISTER BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Now that the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs is going to study high interest rates in Canada, will the minister appear before the committee and give his views with regard to high interest rates charged by banks, the impropriety of their advertising techniques and also—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is referring to the course of proceedings in a committee. To that extent the question is not in order.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

VISIT TO LABRADOR OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. On what day this week will the standing committee visit Labrador in line with the committee's commitment of many months standing to do so?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member he is also dealing with internal matters of a committee. I doubt very much whether that question can be asked of the minister at this time.

Mr. Peddle: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, a point of order or a point of something: This is a very serious matter. In the

Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth absence of the chairman of the committee I ask that the minister answer, if possible.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that so far as I am concerned, and the extent of my responsibility in the matter, the committee can go to—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Jamieson:—Labrador any time they wish. If it is appropriate at this time—I do not know at just what point in the proceedings it would be or if agreement of the house is required—I certainly have no objection.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—CHANGE IN POLICY RESPECTING INSURANCE COMPANIES PARTICIPATION

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Presuming on your tolerance, Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the Ontario government's decision, the importance of medicare and the fact that the Prime Minister was looking for an answer in his files, would he care to answer my question on medicare?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was not actually looking for an answer in my files. I was looking to see which day a representative of the department answers in the house, and I find that today is one such day.

I am afraid I do not have the answer to the question, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—URBAN GROWTH—SUGGESTED FAILURE TO MEET CHALLENGE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West) moved:

That for the purpose of dealing particularly with the failure of the Prime Minister and the government to provide leadership in relation to the challenge of rapid urban growth as dealt with in the reports of the Economic Council of Canada and generally with the Privy Council estimates, consideration be given to the 1969-70 Privy Council estimates contained in the ninth report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates presented to the house on May 29, 1969.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to present my party's submissions