

*Inquiries of the Ministry***YOUTH**

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in my discussions with the Secretary General of the United Nations and Mr. Kittani it was reported that the government of Pakistan is willing to have United Nations supervision over the distribution of relief supplies. This seemed to me to mark a step forward and is one of the questions I should like to have clarified before I make a statement about our future intentions. It is my hope—indeed, I think it is everyone's hope—that the intentions of the Pakistan government to permit adequate surveillance will be confirmed.

Mr. Macquarrie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether gestures such as that made by the government of Saskatchewan in offering wheat are, in light of the minister's present information, the kind of thing that Canadians should be doing and encouraging?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I did hear through Mr. Kittani that one of the major needs of East Pakistan is going to be grain in very large quantities.

EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—PROVISION OF CANADIAN GRAIN

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the Canadian government is planning to contribute substantial amounts of grain and also to meet the cost of transportation as a food aid measure in this situation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, decisions are being made to contribute some oilseeds to the refugees from Pakistan who are now in India. As I say, it already appears clear that grain is going to be one of the needs of East Pakistan, and the Secretary General will within the next few days probably be issuing an appeal to countries of the world to meet this deficit.

[Translation]

EAST PAKISTAN—ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES—CO-OPERATION OF PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Can the minister tell us if the Canadian government, in spite of its willingness to help the people of East Pakistan and West Bengal, has the co-operation of the Pakistani authorities?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, so far, of course, we have contributed only to the needs of the refugees in India and we are receiving every co-operation from the Indian government. We are now trying to work out means whereby relief can be supplied to the people of East Pakistan through the medium of the Pakistan government.

ALLEGED MISHANDLING OF FUNDS IN ADMINISTRATION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM, TORONTO

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State. Has the Secretary of State yet received a report from the parliamentary secretary who went to Toronto to meet Alderman Crombie to discuss with the alderman his charges of mismanagement under the Opportunities for Youth program?

Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary did speak to Alderman Crombie. Furthermore, a number of officials from the Department of the Secretary of State were also in discussion with him. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that the major criticism that was first raised was one of mismanagement of funds. That has not taken place, for the reasons I put forward on Thursday last. In terms of projects that the alderman may not have been pleased with, he has made no public statement as to which of the projects he is calling into question. From our conversations we have concluded that the only project one can pinpoint—and this would be open to his public correction—is the project called Neighbourhood Youth Corps.

In terms of this particular project, officials in the Ontario premier's office were consulted, the Social Planning Council of Toronto was consulted, and the Toronto citizenship liaison officers were consulted. Apparently there was general agreement on the matter, and we see no reason yet for any change in our support for that project.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS AND CRITERIA

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, would the parliamentary secretary ask the Secretary of State when the minister will make the statement he has promised for some considerable time now regarding the distribution and allocation of grants under the Opportunities for Youth program? Would he also say when he will reveal the specific criteria that are used for approval of these projects? I am thinking specifically of a project in British Columbia that was approved and under which several Americans were apparently busy growing marijuana.

Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there are several parts to that question. In reply to the first part of the question, which was when the Secretary of State will be making a statement, I can tell the House that he will be making a statement on Friday on motions. If I might have your permission, Mr. Speaker, I might deal with the appendage to the question, or perhaps I could wait for a direct question on that matter.