

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****NIGERIA—POSSIBLE MEDIATION BY CANADA
IN CIVIL DISPUTE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the right hon. Prime Minister; it follows on one I asked last week. In the absence of any official communiqué or news report could the Prime Minister inform the house whether his talks with the foreign minister of Nigeria touched on the civil war in that country and the possibility of Canadian mediation in that dispute?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, that matter came up. The foreign minister expressed the hope that the civil conflict would end very shortly and that Nigerian unity would be restored and peace with it.

PUBLIC SERVICE**MAINTENANCE OF ETHNIC PRESS DIVISION
IN STATE SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. I should like to ask her whether she or the government have given orders to the staff of the ethnic press division in her department that they should seek other employment because of the disbanding of that section.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, I know nothing at all about that.

Mr. Starr: Is there any intention on the part of the government to disband that section in the Department of the Secretary of State?

Miss LaMarsh: None whatsoever.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**REQUESTS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF STUDY
PAPERS ON HOUSE LEADERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The right hon. gentleman will understand why I was unable to give him notice of it. In view of the fact that the statement hereinafter referred to is already in the hands of the press, would the Prime

[Mr. Benson.]

Minister be willing to provide for the benefit of members the alleged study paper dealing with the Leader of the Opposition? In addition, would a copy be sent to the Leader of the Opposition for his guidance in the hope that this may lead to some understanding of the extraordinary political acrobatics of this government?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I would be very glad indeed to do that, Mr. Speaker. It is a very interesting academic exercise.

Mr. D. V. Pugh (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister on the matter of the study or position papers. Would the Prime Minister also let the house have a position paper on the various Liberal hopefuls?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. And I wonder whether my hon. friends on the other side would send me a copy of the analyses I am sure they have made over the years of my character and achievements.

PARLIAMENT HILL**INQUIRY AS TO MAINTENANCE OF
CENTENNIAL FLAME**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the centennial flame has caught the imagination of a great many people in Canada, has the Prime Minister received representations from people and organizations requesting that the centennial flame be maintained in perpetuity?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker; I have received representations, including representations from many members of the house on this side and others. I agree that the flame should become the symbol of our first centennial year and should not be extinguished. Perhaps it would be desirable to re-light it as we enter our second centennial year.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

When we look at that flame, we see a blue part. Would it be possible to put out only that part and maintain the other?