

member. The government of Equatorial Guinea feels that we have one Hercules too many there. They feel one Hercules is about all they can handle at this time.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Am I to understand from the Prime Minister's answers that his government has made direct representations to the government of Nigeria in order to assist the Red Cross to obtain the necessary permission from the government of Nigeria?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, there is no question of our having made such representation. There is a Hercules in Lagos now; therefore we have nothing of this nature to discuss with the government of Lagos.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Red Cross is having difficulty obtaining this permission, and since the Prime Minister initially took the position that the government of Canada would not make representations directly to the government of Nigeria to help the Red Cross obtain this permission, is my understanding correct that the government of Canada since then has made direct representations to help the Red Cross obtain permission?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that understanding is not correct. I think the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to some questions that were asked about flights from Sao Tomé. With regard to flights by the Red Cross, representations for these had been going on for quite some time. We made such representations to the government of Lagos and we finally obtained an answer that they would accept use by the Red Cross of Canadian military personnel. That was clearly defined, but that was several weeks ago.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether other hon. members might not have an opportunity to ask questions. However, I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have one more supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since representations were made to assist the Red Cross obtain permission, would the Prime Minister not consider making representations in order that certain church groups might also obtain permission from the government of Nigeria?

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Mr. Speaker, we did. This question was discussed with the Nigerian government and I gave their answer a few moments ago. They said they would authorize Canadian military personnel and aircraft under the authority of the Red Cross, but not under the authority of the churches.

### IMMIGRATION

#### INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the deep concern held in all parts of this house for the welfare of the victims of the Nigerian civil war, and in view of the world wide praise for the Canadian program to aid Czech refugees, can the minister tell this house the number of refugees from the Czechoslovakian invasion who have been assisted by Canada to date, and the total amount expended on their behalf?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Trudeau:** What's the matter. Aren't hearts bleeding over there?

**Mr. Perrault:** I do not know the answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Though the hon. member is asking for very specific information, my impression is that he is asking for statistical information, the type of information normally obtained by putting questions on the order paper. If there is urgency the hon. member knows he can give notice to the Chair.

**An hon. Member:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** The question has not been accepted, so no supplementary can be asked.

### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### REPORTED STATEMENT RESPECTING PATRONAGE IN OTTAWA AREA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** I have a question for the Prime Minister with regard to the statements he made in Halifax. Will the right hon. gentleman outline the government's position in connection with a statement on television last evening in which the Minister of Justice referred to the Solicitor General as the senior