

Inquiries of the Ministry

notice, or pay in lieu of notice, as provided in the agreement between the company and the local unit of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister, first, how much notice they received and, second, if he will discuss with his colleague the Minister of Labour whether it would be advisable to have inserted in all government contracts a provision that in any government contract the employer must at least comply with the minimum standards set out in the Canada Labour Code?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the minimum notice was three days. Notice was longer than that for salaried employees who had longer service. The length of notice varied with the length of service. I have already discussed this matter with my colleague the Minister of Labour.

TRANSPORTAVAILABILITY OF RAILWAY COSTING
FORMULA REPORT

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister say whether the new railway costing formula report will be ready for distribution before the recess?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, I cannot say, Mr. Speaker.

FISHERIESDAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT CAUSED BY
DRAGGERS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Minister of Fisheries is not here I will direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. On June 18 I asked the Minister of Fisheries a question relating to the dragger operation in northwestern Newfoundland which is interfering with the operations of the Newfoundland fishermen. The minister stated he had asked for a report. Has the parliamentary secretary a report to disclose to the house?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): I do not have the report, Mr. Speaker. I know there is to be one, but I do not have it here today.

[Mr. Richardson.]

EXTERNAL AIDBIAFRA—CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN RELIEF
EFFORT—DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I would normally direct this question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but as he is not available and because of the importance of the question I will direct it to the Prime Minister. Earlier this year the government indicated that if Biafra were prepared to accept daylight flights this would substantially alter the government's position with regard to its willingness to participate in an air relief effort. Now that the authorities have indicated they are prepared to use the Uli airstrip for daylight purposes, will the Prime Minister advise what action the government is prepared to take? Has the Prime Minister or the government been in contact with the Nigerian authorities to see whether they will give clearance to the operation of a daylight relief effort?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I obtained a copy of the statement of the Biafran leader, Colonel Ojukwu. It is not very clear that the rebels are prepared to have daylight flights. As I read this statement, there are five conditions attached to it. I may remind the house that General Gowon offered to allow daylight flights on the sole condition that they not be used to bring in arms. This offer was made eight or nine months ago following negotiations by the Canadian government with General Gowon.

The statement made eight months later by Colonel Ojukwu contains the following conditions: (1) Should it become absolutely necessary; (2) while work on the exclusively relief airport is in progress; (3) the government is willing to consider the use of the Uli airport for combined day and night relief operations; (4) for a limited period; (5) subject to effective international or other third party guarantees.

This, Mr. Speaker, is in response to the Nigerian offer which has been outstanding for eight months and which is subject to only a single condition. It is not very encouraging. Our Canadian representatives in Lagos have repeatedly stated we want this daylight flight arrangement to be made. We still hope there will be a clear arrangement between the two governments that will permit it.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the uncertainty that even the Prime Minister has expressed with regard to the conditions to be imposed