

six prescription drugs which combine the use of antibiotics and other drugs in fixed ratios. I asked the minister whether any action had been taken to ban the sale of these drugs on the Canadian market.

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, again I shall call the attention of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to this matter. No information has been conveyed to me in that respect.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BIAFRA—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN NIGERIAN POSITION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Would he say whether the Prime Minister's statement that Chief Awolowo is prepared to meet the Biafrans without pre-conditions indicates that Nigeria is now changing its position that peace can come only if Biafra surrenders?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the reports on this subject and some related matters are not complete. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he might agree it would be better to wait until the Prime Minister is back in the house, at which time I am sure he will wish to make a statement and answer questions based on greater detailed knowledge than we have available at the moment.

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF RELIEF EFFORTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, in view of the fact that it is also reported that the Prime Minister has instructed officials of the Department of External Affairs to meet with Biafran representatives in London with regard to possible peace talks, will our representatives be talking about the possibility of expanding or initiating new relief efforts that will be coordinated with government transport?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the talks will not be confined to one narrow issue, but I think it would also be better in this case to wait until we have a complete report from the officials who have been engaged in these discussions.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Henri Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Would he tell the house whether he holds that the economic situation will improve in the province of Quebec in 1969? Does he expect sizeable progress in foreign investments in Canada, and especially in the province of Quebec?

Mr. Speaker: I feel that the hon. member's question as stated is far too general. It calls on a member of the government to make a general policy statement. I consider that such a statement should normally be made on motions.

[English]

GRAIN

PAYMENTS TO FARMERS FOR CONDITIONING OF DAMP WHEAT

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the opinion of farm experts that much of the 400 million bushels of farm stored damp grain will spoil, come spring, owing to the slow conditioning of this grain, has the government considered giving a direct payment on a per bushel basis to farmers to have the conditioning carried out and thus prevent a drastic loss to our economy?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise that much or a large part of 400 million bushels will spoil.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, just to satisfy my own curiosity I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Did he get permission from the Prime Minister to be in attendance today, a day when he should not be here?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TAX TREATMENT OF EXPENDITURES ON DRYING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the light of the answer the Minister of Agriculture gave earlier today, for which I thank him, I wish to direct a further question to him. In view of the fact