

Inquiries of the Ministry

the request of the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada for a meeting of a delegation of the institute's officers and the Prime Minister to discuss and seek clarification on certain matters arising from Bill No. C-120 and, in particular, from the Prime Minister's statement to the house at the resolution stage.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I received this letter from the institute the day before it was delivered to the press. At that time I considered whether this was conducive to obtaining the information really wanted. I was asked in the letter a series of questions concerning government agencies, and I referred this letter to those agencies in order that they might verify whether the fears or allegations referred to were well founded. When I receive a reply I will in turn reply and indicate whether I wish to see these gentlemen.

EXTERNAL AID**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PERCENTAGE OF NATIONAL INCOME**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that despite the recent desirable increase in our foreign aid Canada still stands twelfth among the 16 western industrial nations in the proportion of the national income which is used—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask the question? He knows the purpose of asking questions at this time is not to convey information but rather to seek it.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, with great respect, I did not think the question I am about to pose would have meant as much to the Prime Minister without the preamble. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can inform the house of any plans the government has to increase foreign aid so that the goal he has expressed of 1 per cent of the national income may be reached by 1970; and will he indicate in what stages?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it was the previous government's policy, as it has been the policy of this government, to consider this as a goal. Every year we are doing better. I believe the increase this year was some \$50 million for foreign aid and for international development. We are still aiming in this direction, and perhaps in next year's budget we will discover new ways of finding more money so we can help more people in other countries.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS**MONTMAGNY, QUE.—REQUEST FOR DREDGING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Will the Department of Transport undertake shortly the dredging of the Montmagny basin to promote the economy of that area, as the shooting season for migratory birds on Ile-aux-Grues has now started and communications by water have become extremely difficult?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that this question should be put on the order paper, but if it is urgent, the hon. member could advise the Chair so that it can be discussed during the adjournment motion.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): At ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

HOUSING**MONTREAL—HEARING OF BRIEFS BY TASK FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I would like to ask the minister, for how many days was the urban task force scheduled to sit in the city of Montreal for the purpose of hearing briefs from groups or individuals concerning urban development and urban housing problems in this metropolis of Canada?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it was scheduled to sit for two days, but if there are additional excellent briefs that should be considered we would be willing to consider additional time, or we will hear interested persons when we return to the Hull-Ottawa area about the end of the month.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport a supplementary question.

What steps has the minister taken to inform the public, the intermediate bodies as well as the federal and provincial members of parliament interested in that problem that public sittings will be held at such a date and time set aside for that purpose—