

Inquiries of the Ministry

quite a few supplementaries. I suggest to hon. members that we should turn to another subject now, and if there is time before the expiry of the question period hon. members with supplementaries might ask related questions.

[Later:]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him whether, in his discussions with the Secretary of State in Washington, he sought an assurance from the United States administration that they would cease bombing North Viet Nam as soon as arrangements for a conference such as he seeks are under way? If he did, would he say what the reply was?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend knows perfectly well that in matters of this sort it is not possible for me to give the kind of reply which I should like to be able to give.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friends say "oh, oh", and that is their privilege. I must say I cannot believe there will be general approval in the country of the stand that some hon. gentlemen are taking with regard to a matter of this vital importance. I am sorry I cannot give an answer to the question put by my hon. friend in the particular form in which he puts it, but I did have with Secretary of State Rusk a very full discussion of this matter, particularly with regard to the role which Canada feels the commission might be able to play in this very difficult situation.

Mr. Lewis: A supplementary question. If the minister is unable to say what Mr. Rusk's reply was, can he at least inform the house whether he, on behalf of the government of Canada, sought an assurance that this bombing would stop?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is repeating the question he has already asked.

[Translation]

FAMILY ALLOWANCES**QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to revert to a most interesting subject and put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Could he say whether he or a member of the government has received from Mr. René Lévesque, minister of Social Welfare of the province of Quebec, a request for transfer to Quebec of family allowances administration and jurisdiction in return for an equivalent tax compensation?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a question for me and for all my colleagues and naturally I cannot answer it without consulting them. Perhaps my hon. friend will put the question on the order paper.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**VISIT TO OTTAWA OF NEW ZEALAND OMBUDSMAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and it has to do with the visit to Ottawa today of Sir Guy Powles, the New Zealand ombudsman. It also relates to the announcement made on several occasions that the government intends to consider establishing such an office. Has the Prime Minister made arrangements for himself or members of his government to meet with Sir Guy Powles to discuss this very interesting and urgent problem?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether arrangements have been made by any of my colleagues. We would, of course, be very glad indeed to meet with the gentleman in question and discuss his experiences in this role in New Zealand.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF PENSION ENTITLEMENT OF WIDOWS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. M. Brand (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the revelations on the television program "This Hour Has 7 days" last evening, will the minister consider reviewing the case of the widow of airman Edward E. Chambers and other cases like it with regard to pension entitlement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is an important question which should be placed on the order paper.