

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: I am sure we all want to support the Red Cross as long as its members feel there is still a chance to obtain approval for daylight flights.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister can say that one of the steps taken relates to aid to the church organizations and Canairelief which have in fact been flying supplies in to the starving people of Biafra?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have been holding discussions with the church groups and Canairelief who also would like to have daylight flights. I am sure hon. members would agree that this is desirable.

GRAIN**INQUIRY AS TO ACREAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): In view of the very serious situation on the prairies resulting from the unharvested grain and the inability to find adequate markets for grain in store which have led to very drastic cash shortages affecting the whole western economy, I should like to ask the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon whether the government is giving consideration to implementing an immediate program of acreage payments to alleviate this intolerable situation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Other questions along this line have been asked. As the hon. member knows, the Minister of Agriculture and I personally have visited the area in question and the government has been considering the situation. I expect an announcement of government policy to be made shortly.

POLLUTION**BURYING OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL
IN ATLANTIC OCEAN**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether in recent months Canada has given consideration to representations, not only at the immediate Conference on the Sea but at the much broader one to be held in 1971, concerning the burying of fissionable material in the Atlantic depths?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, under the aegis of the United Nations there will be an international conference on this subject in 1971 or 1972. Certainly, my department, along

with the Department of External Affairs, has given very careful consideration to Canadian representation at this conference. I feel sure that Canada will be represented and will state her position very clearly at that time.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, will the minister indicate whether Canada is now adopting a position in respect of the custom of the United States of burying this fissionable material in the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, in this day and age when we are all concerned about pollution, particularly this worst type?

Mr. Greene: I believe this very question is under discussion at the present time. Perhaps the Department of External Affairs is more directly concerned with this problem. It may be that the minister can elaborate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that this information should be conveyed to the House in due course by way of a statement on motions.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. RESPECTING
CLOSING OF BASES**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs which is similar to a question asked by my colleague, the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. Has the minister had discussions with his counterpart in the United States government regarding the future of United States military and naval bases in this country, and whether any will be affected by the recently announced policy of that government to phase out over 300 bases round the world?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Quite clearly, Mr. Speaker, the United States, like Canada, has been engaged in some retrenching operations, and we can hardly protest about them. We have, however, been discussing with the United States government the notice that should be accorded to Canadian employees. We have been urging upon them, not as successfully as we would wish, some greater notice than they have given. I think that is the extent to which we can protest. In fact, as hon. members of the House know, I have been engaged in somewhat similar operations.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister could indicate the result of the negotiations