

Inquiries of the Ministry

will National Housing Act guarantees on maximum first mortgage loans by private lenders on existing homes be made available, provided that all necessary and stipulated interior renovations and mortgage advances are made in the winter months, save for any needed advance or hold-back for completion of exterior work in the fall or spring?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It may be that the minister may wish to answer the question. However, I suggest to the hon. member that his question is rather long and involved.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Public Works): The answer is that as I have indicated earlier, the suggestion which has been advanced on a number of occasions, not only by the national house building association, that mortgage advances on existing houses be covered under the National Housing Act is under consideration. When a decision is reached it will be announced in the ordinary way.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**COLUMBIA RIVER—CONSIDERATION OF TREATY
BY COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. Byrne (Kootenay East): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the obvious misunderstanding and certainly the disagreement of opinion among important sectors of the people of Canada, would the Prime Minister consider placing the draft Columbia river treaty before a committee of parliament before the Christmas recess?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree in any way with the expression used by the hon. member as to any misunderstanding. As far as the question in particular is concerned, the answer is no.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INDIA—STATEMENT AS TO MILITARY AID
REQUESTED**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I now wish to answer a question which was asked yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition in regard to artillery and long range mortars requested by India. A review of the records reveals that India made a request to several countries, including Canada, for mountain artillery and long range howitzers which could reach up to 10,000 yards. They needed them urgently in order to deal with the Chinese onslaught. The matter was looked into and it

[Mr. Ryan.]

was found that the mortars available in Canada were not of the type the Indian government needed and that in so far as mountain artillery was concerned, which they requested, we had none.

**O.E.C.D.—ACTION TO ASSIST LESS DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and arises out of the papers he tabled yesterday with regard to the council of ministers of the O.E.C.D. Can the minister indicate to the house at this time what steps the government is taking pursuant to the ministerial resolution to assist in formulating concerted policies designed to further the economic development of the less developed countries?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): All appropriate steps, Mr. Speaker.

**INDIA—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
PRESENT POSITION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the minister any recent information about the withdrawal of Chinese troops from the Indian border and the general situation in that part of the world?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing I can add on that matter today.

**NATO—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
AGENDA OF CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. If he is going to attend the NATO council meeting, does he not think he should give the house some indication of some of the matters which will be considered at that meeting, and particularly those matters which have been covered by some of the questions today concerning the possession of nuclear arms?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I expect to be leaving a week from today for the NATO ministers' meeting in Paris. As the hon. member knows very well, the agenda for these meetings is not made public and it would be inappropriate for me to make a statement such as he suggests before attending the conference.