

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNITED NATIONS****SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND FOR
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): In view of the renewed interest in economic assistance to the nations of Africa, I wonder whether the minister could add anything to an answer he gave me on March 9, when I asked him whether the Canadian government had discussed with the secretary general of the United Nations his proposal for an African development fund. At that time the minister said he had not had an opportunity of discussing this question with the United Nations secretary general, and I wondered if there had been any discussions between Canada and the secretary general of the United Nations on the establishment of such a fund.

Hon. Howard C. Green (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I do not believe there has been, but I shall make inquiries and give the hon. member a further answer at a later date.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): There is a supplementary question from the supernumerary, but before asking it I must say that this group appreciated very much the reply given by the minister to the question asked by the hon. member for Laurier with respect to United States air force planes leaving and landing in Canada. I agree with him that we all have to do the best we can to work together to create the best possible atmosphere for the summit conference.

Knowing the minister's high regard—

Some hon. Members: Question, question.

Mr. Herridge: I am coming to the question—and appreciation for exactitude, may I say that my question is—

An hon. Member: Oh, ask it.

Mr. Herridge:—some time ago the *Globe and Mail* mentioned that the Prime Minister was responsible for the aid to Africa program through the establishment of a commonwealth fund. Has his attention been drawn to this morning's *Globe and Mail* which now states the plan—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has taken enough time now to ask a number of questions. I wonder if he could come to the point and ask his question.

Mr. Herridge: I am just about to do so. In view of the previous report that the Prime Minister of Canada had originated the aid to Africa program, and the fact that today's *Globe and Mail* says that Mr. Nkrumah

[Mr. Churchill.]

originated it, would the minister mind informing the house which is the correct version?

Mr. Green: I am sure the hon. member is not trying to take any credit away from Canada.

Hon. Paul Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. Is it not a fact that the proposal for a fund to assist Africa was not made by the Prime Minister of Canada but by the prime minister of Ghana?

Mr. Green: I am surprised that the hon. member is trying to take the credit away from Canada.

Mr. Argue: Is the minister aware of the fact that I proposed this on March 9?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**UNEMPLOYMENT—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION BY
JOINT COMMITTEE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether, in the light of the action forecast in another place, the government would consider asking this house to join with the other place in an inquiry having to do with exploring the possibilities of maintaining and extending a high level of employment and thereby—I am putting my own interpretation on it—reducing unemployment.

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): From time to time in the past committees on other matters have been set up in the other place, and in most cases have served very useful purposes. This committee in the other place has been set up on the initiative of the other place. My feeling is that they will approach the matter without bias and perform a good service in respect of the subject being considered. Consequently I feel that the matter should be left in that position.

Mr. Pickersgill: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the hon. member is inquiring into a matter of policy, not a matter of information or fact. He is asking the government to declare a policy with respect to the discussion of this matter.

Mr. Pickersgill: On a point of order, sir; I was not asking the minister to declare any policy, I was asking if the government would ask this house to join in an inquiry. I should like to ask a supplementary question of the minister, and it is this. Does he suggest that the members in this house who represent the people will approach that question with bias?

An hon. Member: You would.