

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

**MORTALITY RATE IN NORTHWEST  
 TERRITORIES**

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, in light of today's reports that Indian mortality rates in the Northwest Territories have risen even in the infant age group, which is not the case in the rest of Canada, will the Minister of National Health and Welfare comment on the reasons for this situation in view of the fact that in these territories the federal government has clear primacy of responsibility?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is referring to a statement made by a regional employee in the Northwest Territories who stated that what he did say was that there was an ever decreasing rate of Indian mortality in that area.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MINISTER**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare this question. In view of the apparent serious situation in medical services, when does he expect to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of his deputy minister last August?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** The government has that under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF  
 GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME**

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

When the government claimed the right, at the federal-provincial conference, to pay directly the social security benefits to the individuals in each province, was it paving the way for a guaranteed annual income for all Canadians?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I was not paving the way for anything, Mr. Speaker, but I simply pointed out that this has been done for 100 years under the Canadian constitution and that we did not want of a constitution under which the federal gov-

[Mr. Lang.]

ernment would have only the right to tax Quebec citizens without being empowered to pay them some benefits when they are unable to provide for themselves on account of old age, illness or unemployment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member for Shefford wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Rondeau:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Would the federal government intend to substitute shortly to all subsidies granted in the field of social security a program designed to extend to all Canadians an annual guaranteed income? Do they wish to abolish the social security program to replace it with an annual guaranteed income for all Canadians?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether this would help to clarify the question if I were to say that during the discussions, we divided the general problem of social security by talking about social services. We also recognized that the provinces alone must have the jurisdiction in the field of social services. As to guaranteeing the income of Canadians through allowances, we feel that a new constitution should continue to leave to the federal government alone the jurisdiction in that respect. I do not know if that clears up the issue.

As for programs to be established, that is not a constitutional matter, but a question of policy to be announced in due time by the ministers.

**POLLUTION**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF JURISDICTION BY THE  
 SUPREME COURT**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Does he seriously consider having the Supreme Court of Canada rule on jurisdiction over air and water pollution, as recommended in the white paper on taxation?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, the white paper on taxation does not say anything about referring this question to the Supreme Court, but I can always inquire.