

Inquiries of the Ministry

perhaps not the Minister of Finance who should concern himself in the first instance with regional disparities, but we have a Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whose proper concern it is and who effectively signed with the province of Prince Edward Island a month or so ago a FRED plan under which the federal government will be contributing \$125 million.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In order to keep abreast of the affairs going on in the government, I ask the Prime Minister, who is the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development?

Mr. Trudeau: There is none, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Prime Minister take care to be accurate in the future?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I ask the minister whether he intends to hold conversations in the near future with the government of Prince Edward Island relative to financial problems which are outside of the comprehensive development plan.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, my sole power is that of being able to discuss with the government of Prince Edward Island, within the framework of FRED, under which we have an agreement with that government.

[*English*]

ARNOLD'S COVE, NFLD.—RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Defence Production in his capacity as Acting Minister of Fisheries. Would the minister inform the house whether the government intends to investigate the government's resettlement program in Arnold's Cove, Newfoundland, in view of the very serious questions raised in the C.T.V. program "W-5" of April 6?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a representation to the minister and has to assume that it will be taken into account.

[*Mr. Trudeau.*]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

MEDICARE—CONSIDERATION OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY P.E.I.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the provincial treasurer of Prince Edward Island that it would be wrong for the federal government to force the provinces to go it alone on medicare in five years, will the Prime Minister say whether the views of the government of Prince Edward Island in this respect will be, or are being, considered by the federal government and whether further intergovernmental discussions are in contemplation at an early date?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not on the medicare act proper, Mr. Speaker.

RUBELLA EPIDEMIC—ACCESSIBILITY TO VACCINE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, one of urgent concern to all Canadian women who may become mothers during the next few years.

In view of the medical expectation of an epidemic of rubella during 1970 and 1971, and in view of the possible resultant causation of fetal abnormalities more widespread than those during the thalidomide tragedy, can the minister inform the house what the prospects are for Canadian women to have access to supplies of the Cendehill anti-rubella vaccine, which newspapers say has recently been licensed in Switzerland?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to look into that matter and report to the hon. member in the house.

AIR CANADA

WINNIPEG—TRANSFER OF BASE TO NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES LTD.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it relates to the transfer of the Air Canada base at Winnipeg to Northwest Industries Ltd. What steps is the government taking to make sure that the employees affected will not be either unemployed or forced to take work at lower wages than they have had under Air Canada?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, every