

is in effect saying yes, but in his own way. I should like to ask him whether, for example, in lieu of suggesting to the doctors how they should conduct their practices, the minister would consider increasing the federal government funds available to assist and encourage the construction of institutions which can be operated at a lower cost than active treatment hospitals?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, this will be one of the items that will undoubtedly be raised for consideration at the conference.

Mr. Stanfield: I am sure it will be. I asked the minister whether he and the government are considering increasing the funds available, not whether the subject will be raised at the conference.

Mr. Munro: As I endeavoured to indicate, we have just received these reports. The various provincial governments and ourselves have had them for about three or four weeks, and until we make a joint analysis of them and determine what are the appropriate remedies that can be applied the federal government can make no decision, nor can the provincial governments, with reference to the matter which the Leader of the Opposition has just raised or with reference to any other matters.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the minister. Can he indicate what the government's plans are for the introduction of medicare in the northern territories?

Mr. Munro: I cannot give a definite decision on that matter at the moment.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister elucidate whether he implied in his remarks that he intends to establish some sort of system of policing what type of patients should be admitted to hospitals?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must intervene at this point and apologize to the House, particularly to the Leader of the Opposition, for the fact that I allowed his question in the first instance. It is well known to hon. members that normally questions cannot be asked directly about statements outside the House except for questions asked of the Prime Minister inviting him to indicate whether a statement represents government policy. However, I was not quite prepared when the question period started and that is why the question

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was allowed. But I do not think the supplementary question should be allowed, certainly not in the way it was asked.

Mr. Stanfield: If I may say with respect, Mr. Speaker, I do not think you should apologize for making any error in allowing the question because the question I asked was directly related to what is in fact the attitude and the policy of the government. It is true I did not succeed in getting an answer.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Leader of the Opposition. I feel much better now that I know I was in order.

TRADE

EXPORT OF ARMS TO UNITED STATES— INQUIRY AS TO SELECTIVE EMBARGO

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister arises out of the annual report of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce which indicates that Canada's exports of arms to the United States last year amounted to \$320 million, bringing to a total of over \$2 billion our exports of arms to the United States over the last ten years. Having in mind the growing disenchantment both in the United States and in Canada with the Viet Nam war, I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is giving consideration to following the example of Sweden and imposing a selective embargo upon exports of arms to the United States for the duration of the present hostilities in Viet Nam?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Then, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if his answer indicates the logical fulfilment of the principle which he enunciated last year with reference to Canada's complicity—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question being asked by the hon. member is surely couched in an argumentative form. Perhaps it might be asked more directly.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister if his statement today means that the government's policy is summed up in his own phrase, that Canada's complicity in Viet Nam must be measured in terms that we have to choose between dirty hands or empty bellies?