

Speaker. As soon as a decision is made, I will be glad to inform the house.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

CALL FOR SERVICES OF MEDICAL DOCTORS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the alarming statement by the minister that 72 per cent of the people of Canada needing medical care do not see a doctor, what provisions has he in mind to deal with this situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is too wide in scope to be asked in this way during the question period. It might be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Rynard: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

MEDICARE—CHANGE IN POLICY RESPECTING INSURANCE COMPANIES PARTICIPATION

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the importance of the recent decision of the government of Ontario to enter the national medicare plan, can the minister indicate whether there has been a change in federal government policy regarding the participation of insurance companies as carriers in the medicare plan?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking for a statement of policy which in my view is normally made on motions.

OLD AGE SECURITY

DRUGS—FREE DISTRIBUTION TO RECIPIENTS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister planning to introduce a supplementary estimate or whatever procedure is necessary to provide free drugs to those receiving the old age security supplement?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker. There is provision under the Canada Assistance Plan for such assistance to those who need it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): How many provinces have come under the Canada Assistance Plan?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

INDIAN AFFAIRS

TRANSFER TO COMMISSION OF MATTERS UNDER JURISDICTION OF EXCHEQUER COURT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Certain cases are now being started in the Exchequer Court which have been pending for years because the Indians had neither the money nor counsel to prove their claims in relation to treaties and other land rights. Will those cases now be transferred to the commission which the minister is setting up and will the Indians have counsel to enable them to set out their rights properly?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing I can do about the Indians' own decisions. We will set up a commission to which they can, if they so desire, submit their representations. There will also be the sub-committee the Indians established in April which we trust will assist them in preparing the essential document to be presented on behalf of the Indians of Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will there be provision giving Indians the right to transfer those cases from the Exchequer Court, where they cannot afford to litigate, so that their rights will be protected?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the commission will not be a court. It will be an investigating body, working jointly with the Indian National Committee on the rights and treaties of the Indians.

[*English*]

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): Can the minister assure the house that a check will be made on the amount of fees charged when the government is paying them on behalf of the Indians?

PENSIONS

ACTION TO ASSURE ADEQUATE BENEFITS FOR ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs or the acting minister. In view of the appeal received from