

SOCIAL SECURITY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PLANS FOR INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM DISCUSSED WITH PROVINCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement just made by the Prime Minister I should like to ask him whether the Minister of National Health and Welfare intends to make a statement to the House before it recesses with regard to the plans of the federal government that have been proposed to or discussed with the provinces for the integration of an income support program inasmuch as such plans are obviously of great interest to the House and to the people of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will discuss this with the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker.

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CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

DISCUSSION OF OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS AT VICTORIA

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): I have a question I should like to direct to the right hon. Prime Minister. Was the important issue of offshore mineral rights one of the subjects discussed with the provinces at Victoria?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the subject was raised but it was not brought to any conclusion at the discussions, as indeed was the case with many other subjects raised and which did not form the basis of what we call the charter.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Could I ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether there were any new proposals to the provinces regarding the sharing of revenues from offshore mineral and oil resources?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. We are still waiting for answers from the provinces to the plan we put to them more than a year ago.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Terrebonne.

Mr. Caouette: I want to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair recognized the hon. member for Terrebonne and the hon. member for Témiscamingue will be able to put his question in a moment.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

Mr. J.-R. Comtois (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us if, in addition to the proposed amendments to section 94A dealing with social security, the federal government suggested to the provinces any changes to the present social security program? If so, have these changes been proposed before or during the Victoria conference?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Victoria conference was to receive from the Ministers of Health, a report on a conference held about ten days before the one in Victoria.

At this conference, the federal Minister of National Health and Welfare did actually make some suggestions as to the ways the federal government could considerably improve, for instance, the family allowance program. He also submitted other proposals with respect to public assistance. But as I just told the Leader of the Opposition, I will have to discuss the matter with the minister concerned in order to determine whether he should make a statement to this effect within the next few days.

[English]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister who said a moment ago that there were no conclusions or solutions reached as to the eastern provinces' problems and no agreements on the west end of our country. Can the Prime Minister tell the House exactly where he has agreed with any province on any subject so that we can be aware of what is taking place in our country?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: A very good question.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me this question is rather argumentative.

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[English]

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

SUGGESTED PENSION INCREASES FOR EMPLOYEES WHO RETIRED BEFORE 1956

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that pension increases announced recently by the Canadian Pacific Railway did not include any increases at all for employees who retired before 1956, and in view of other shortcomings in the plan, will the minister make the strongest representations he can to the Canadian Pacific Railway to bring its pension increases at least in line with those recently given by Canadian National Railways?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to do that. As the hon. member knows, we have introduced improvements on behalf of Canadian Pacific with regard to their pension plan. We took steps earlier to authorize Canadian National to improve their pension plan. The objective of all this is, of course, to bring about the best possible pension arrangement for all retired employees of the railways. While I am on my feet—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are all on our feet. I am not sure whether the Minister has completed his