

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC RESPECTING POLICY ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS OF ENGLISH SPEAKING MINORITY

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister tell us whether during the past few hours he has been in touch with the premier of Quebec concerning the latter's policy with respect to the language rights of the English-speaking minority in Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I contacted the premier of Quebec. We discussed several matters but I am afraid we dealt very little with this aspect of the problem. I do not want to say that we did not touch upon this topic but there certainly has not been any lengthy discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Charlevoix wish to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Asselin: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Does the Prime Minister of Canada agree with the Quebec premier concerning the language rights of the English minority in Quebec?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I remember that we did speak about this matter, a couple of minutes maybe. I cannot answer the hon. member's question, because it is not specific enough. We briefly referred to the discussion held at the federal-provincial conference a few weeks ago. There has been no change to what was agreed on some time ago.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—PAYMENT BY QUEBEC FOR SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): May I put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Referring to a question that I put yesterday to the Prime Minister, as well as to his answer to the effect that he would have to discuss this with the premier of Quebec, and considering the statement that he has just made, namely, that this consultation has taken place concerning many subjects, may I ask him whether there was any talk of who will foot the bill for costs incurred while the armed forces were in Quebec, and whether he agrees with Mr. Bourassa's statement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we did refer briefly to that subject. I have read Mr. Bourassa's statement, which he made, I think, a day or two ago, and we have agreed, once more, that this matter was not one of urgent priority, that we would leave it on the agenda of a future meeting, that we would try to get into an agreement which would be practical at the administrative level and fair to the province, and, also,—which is important—within the framework of the duties that are ours under the National Defence Act.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—PARTICIPATION OF PROVINCES IN DETERMINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement by the Premier of Quebec yesterday at the opening of the National Assembly that Ottawa will be much to blame for Quebec's escalating unemployment if the provinces are not permitted to participate in redefining Canada's economic policies, is the government planning to hold a conference in the near future with the provinces to begin redefining this government's economic policies?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have very frequent meetings with the Ministers of Finance and treasurers of the provinces. As a matter of fact we have agreed to have four meetings a year, unlike the days when my hon. friend was in the government and they never looked at them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, but I will wait until the rabble quiets down.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Are we to take it then that it is the opinion of the government that in making such a serious statement yesterday the Premier of Quebec was in fact just talking through his hat?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is argumentative. I think at this point I should put hon. members on notice that about half the question period has gone by and I am afraid many hon. members will be disappointed if we do not move a little faster.

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HEALTH

IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DENTAL CARE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN—TRAINING OF DENTAL AUXILIARIES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is based on the Dalton Wells report on dental auxiliaries which he tabled today and to which he referred on Monday. Even if the government is not yet prepared to implement a dental care program for the entire population, may I ask if the government will soon implement the recommendation that there be a national dental program for children in Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): As I indicated on Monday, we are very much