

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Monetary Fund for Canada to peg its dollar or, alternatively, to revalue it higher, but I know of no pressure in the sense of very strong official representations from any particular source or country to that effect.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Has the suggestion referred to by the Prime Minister come from the United States, among other countries, that the Canadian dollar should move up to a higher level in relation to the U.S. dollar?

**Mr. Trudeau:** To my knowledge such pressure has not come from the United States, but I would have to verify the discussions which took place at all levels.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS****TRANSFER OF LANCASTER HOSPITAL TO PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES—PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES' CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of indications that there may shortly be a transfer of Lancaster Hospital in Saint John to the provincial authorities, can the minister give the assurance that public service employees who are involved will be given the same protection as to their conditions of service that applied in the case of other hospital transfers?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Negotiations are going on at present between the government of Canada and the government of New Brunswick with reference to the Lancaster Hospital transfer. As a matter of fact, there was an agreement between both governments as far back as 1968. The negotiations are not completed, but I wish to assure the hon. member that all possible consideration is being given to employment conditions and to other conditions of our employees presently at Lancaster Hospital.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE****STATUS OF ARBITRATION OF NURSES' SALARIES**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** I have a supplementary and related question, Mr. Speaker, which I wish to direct to the President of the Treasury Board. It affects Lancaster Hospital and other hospitals. What is the status of the arbitration of salaries of nurses employed by the government of Canada?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the notice of intention to ask the question. I should advise the hon. gentleman that arbitration hearings at the request of both parties were held in the early part of August, the third and fourth, I believe, and the arbitrator has undertaken to render a decision in not more than six weeks from that date.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****WITHDRAWAL OF CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL BY PARENTS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED LACK OF FACILITIES**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** My question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As a result of the meetings he has held with officials of the Indian Association of Alberta respecting the developments on several reserves in northeastern Alberta regarding the boycott by Indian schoolchildren, can the minister inform the House what steps are now being taken to resolve this dispute?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, following the two meetings I had on Thursday and Friday with the President of the Indian Association of Alberta, we agreed that Mr. Ross Moses, my special assistant, will go tomorrow to the Cold Lake area to investigate the matter and report immediately. We also asked the Indians to exercise pressures on the local band in order that the children be sent back to school as soon as possible, because it is not good that the children's education should be used to push demands with the government.

• (3:30 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise the House whether any firm proposals will be put forth by his officials to the representatives of the Indian bands which would work toward a solution of the problem that has arisen there?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** First of all, Mr. Speaker, the demands had to do with education. Then the questions of economic development and drinking water were raised. This is really an intricate situation and we are not in a position to offer any solution to these problems. My special assistant will report to me this week and if we can make any recommendations, we will certainly do so.

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** May I ask—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has already had a supplementary. We have just about reached the end of the question period. Perhaps the hon. member might allow the Chair to recognize the hon. member for Waterloo now and we might continue this subject tomorrow.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have to bring to the attention of the hon. member for Vegreville that when he was recognized in the first instance the question period had already expired. I think he should be satisfied that he had the opportunity to ask a question and a supplementary while other members were still awaiting an opportunity to ask questions. I would suggest to him, as respectfully and as kindly as I can, that I will make every effort to give him an opportunity to ask his further supplementary question tomorrow.