

despite the fact that many of them are involved in farm management, has the minister given consideration to changing government policy so that rural women can be included under this program?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** This is the first time the matter has been brought to my attention. I will certainly investigate.

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#### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

##### DEATH OF INDIAN AT FORT ALEXANDER RESERVE— REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of the unfortunate incident that occurred at the Fort Alexander Indian Reserve in Manitoba on Saturday, March 31, which resulted in the death of a young native resident of that reserve, may I ask whether the Solicitor General has received a report from the RCMP or from officials in his department in connection with the shooting incident?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** I have received a brief report but I do not have sufficient information at this time to answer the hon. member's question fully. I shall be pleased to do so as soon as I have received a full report.

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#### HEALTH

##### INDEMNIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF THALIDOMIDE— MEASURES TAKEN BY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare arising from recent discussions related to the tragic thalidomide problem. Has the hon. gentleman any information as to the progress being made which would relieve the great anxiety felt by the parents of the children concerned?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I have indeed met recently with representatives of Richardson Merrell (Canada) Ltd., and I am at present writing to all parents of thalidomide children whose claims have not been settled and who do not at the moment have legal representation.

After my meeting with the company's representatives, I first recommended all parents find themselves a lawyer, and the company agreed to pay all legal costs that the parents incurred in Canada, in all cases where the claim was recognized as legitimate.

The company also agreed to let me know periodically of any information it might obtain about the victims. In all cases, the company will attempt to have the settlements approved by the chief justice of the highest court in the province concerned.

#### Oral Questions

Moreover, the department and the company will be periodically exchanging any information that might help identify new cases of thalidomide victims. The company has also indicated its firm intention of reaching settlements in good faith with all parties concerned.

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[English]

#### INDUSTRY

##### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY—INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, following the suggestion of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether he is developing a strategy of industrial development for Canada and when we may expect a statement in this regard?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have made a number of statements on the subject. The Speech from the Throne set out clearly that the government is committed to a coherent set of industrial policies for Canada. From time to time I have had occasion to outline some of these policies, as have the Minister of Finance and other ministers. The evolving position has, I think, been fairly clear with respect to the industrial strategy question. In addition to broad band industrial policies in support of Canadian industry, we will have a number of sector policies, or strategies for various industries.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is it the intention of the minister to meet with the provinces to involve the provinces directly in the development of an industrial strategy for Canada? I have in mind a conference designed to promote such a strategy.

**Mr. Gillespie:** As I have made clear on earlier occasions—I am not sure that the Leader of the Opposition understands this distinction—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Gillespie:**—we are not talking about one big blueprint which for all time will represent what might be described as an industrial strategy for Canada. We are talking about a set of coherent industrial policies for Canada—this is our position—and an industry by industry strategy. A very good example is the textile industry. There is quite clearly an industrial strategy for the textile industry.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** One can just hear Paul Martin standing up and making a speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order, please. I hope the minister is able to conclude his remarks as quickly as possible so that we may continue with the next question.

**Mr. Gillespie:** As to the second part of the hon. gentleman's question with respect to consultation with the prov-