

Inquiries of the Ministry

in respect of the acute medical manpower shortage, and the provision of medical assistants?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, there has been some discussion, a lot of which has been going on within the medical profession itself. I assume the hon. member is referring to doctors' aides. Our department is involved in this discussion and reacting to these views but, as the hon. member knows, we are not the ones who can make a decision. This is a decision for agencies such as the medical profession itself.

Mr. Rynard: Has there been any arrangement for a meeting with those bodies?

Mr. Munro: Not that I am aware of; but I will check, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. Munro: While I am on my feet, may I amplify my answer to the hon. member for Simcoe North. He might very well have been referring to the task force on health costs that was set up as a result of the last federal-provincial conference of health ministers and that has met today. This matter may well be discussed.

ESTATE TAX ACT**ALLEGED SPECIAL BURDEN ON HEIRS TO FAMILY FARMS AND BUSINESSES**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question which arises from the remarks of the Minister of Finance at the annual meeting of the London West Liberal Association, as reported in the press, where he admitted that the new estate tax places a special burden on estates of which the major assets are not liquid. Why was this special burden placed on the heirs to family farms and family businesses?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is relating the question he has posed to the minister now to a statement made outside the house, and I am sure he knows the rules in this regard.

Mr. McIntosh: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member cannot ask a question supplementary to one that was not allowed.

[Mr. Rynard.]

OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, now that a great discussion has commenced on the proposed changes in the estate tax bill, and how they will affect not only farmers and businessmen but homeowners in cities, will the participatory democracy about which the Prime Minister so often speaks go so far as to allow interested parties to present their cases to an appropriate committee of the House of Commons before the final disposition of the bill or, failing this—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope the hon. member does not propose to go on until two o'clock tomorrow morning. It seems to me he is making a statement rather than asking a question. I wish he would ask a question, so the Chair may have an opportunity to rule on it.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I have already asked one part of my question as to whether the appropriate committee of the House of Commons might hear briefs, or whether a secretariat might be set up to accept briefs which would be available for public scrutiny, and which might indicate the public concern over this socialistic measure.

Mr. Speaker: The question as asked by the hon. member is not one that can be accepted. It contains statements, allegations and expressions of opinion, and certainly as asked it cannot be received.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**PANARCTIC OIL—SHARING OF PROFITS BY INDIANS AND ESKIMOS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Now that Panartic Oil has announced that it is digging two wells on Melville Island, can the minister tell the house whether consideration is being given by the department to ensure that Indian and Eskimo residents of the arctic areas will share in the profits of any oil or gas lines in these areas made by Panartic Oil?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether shares of that company will be distributed to Eskimos