

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Minister of National Health and Welfare and it is supplementary to a question and answer of last November 19. Can the minister say what progress is being made by the review committee which is studying our welfare and pension programs? Can he say whether attention is being given to the possibility of increasing the old age security pension in proportion to the increases in wages and salaries?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** As I indicated, Mr. Speaker, all of the income maintenance programs and social welfare programs are being reviewed in this study. No firm conclusions have been arrived at, so it is impossible to say whether any conclusions will relate to an increase in old age security or to some other solution that may be adopted.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question. Can the minister say when we might expect to learn the results of that review?

**Mr. Munro:** I hope in due course, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Ten o'clock.

[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****MAINLAND CHINA—INQUIRY WITH RESPECT TO RECOGNITION**

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Would the minister tell this house whether any steps have been taken to break off diplomatic relations with Nationalist China and to establish such relations with continental China?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as both the hon. member and the house know, we are now engaged in discussions with the Peking authorities. This is bound to affect our relations with the nationalist government of China, but in what way the future alone can tell.

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs say whether in this connection, prior to the discussions which are now going on, any action was taken or whether a special emissary was sent to contact Peking authorities, over and

above the recent contacts, with regard to our establishing relations with Red China?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. MacLean:** A further supplementary question which perhaps I should address to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister say whether at any time during the past several months he has used the good offices or services of Professor T. K. Lin of McGill University to discuss this matter with the government at Peking?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It is difficult for the Chair to determine whether discussions had with one particular individual involve a question of urgency. If there is urgency, which is not apparent to the Chair, then the question might be answered by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. MacLean:** Mr. Speaker, this is a very urgent question. At the present time, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said, this matter concerns both governments, and negotiations are underway. We feel we should understand the background against which they are taking place.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, having carefully considered the question and the urgency, the answer is no.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister of external affairs let the house and the country know the identity of these negotiators for Canada? Who are the people who are negotiating?

**Mr. Sharp:** At the present time, Mr. Speaker, the contacts are being made through the Canadian ambassador in Stockholm, who I think is a very respectable gentleman.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS****REQUEST TO REFER REPORT OF WOODS COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs of which I have given him notice. Would the minister advise when the Woods committee report will be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as I answered before, the government is now preparing a white paper and both the white paper and the Woods committee report will be referred to the committee later this session.