

*Inquiries of the Ministry*RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON AGRICULTURAL
STABILIZATION BILL

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I wonder if the House leader can give any indication when the stabilization bill, C-244, might be presented to the House for further consideration?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. This session.

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[Translation]

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY

FAMILY ALLOWANCES—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT
GIVE CERTAIN POWERS TO PROVINCES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Recognizing the fact that the federal government is responsible for setting up minimum family allowance standards for all Canadians, I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister to tell the House whether his government would agree to granting the provinces certain legislative powers that would take into account the credits allowed by the federal government to that end?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is not simple. It is not a question of the federal government granting legislative powers to the provinces because it is clear, under the constitution, that the provinces already have them.

The only question which came up again and again was whether the federal government, which has been making payments for family allowances since 1944, may continue to do that or not. Of course, the answer must be yes: we have to continue these payments for family allowances. That has nothing to do with the letter of Mr. Bourassa in which he proposed an administrative agreement which would not change the constitution or the legislative power of the various levels of government, but would only be an administrative agreement based on the present constitution.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the answer is not any simpler than the question.

Mr. La Salle: May I ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

Keeping in mind that minimal standard set up by the government, that is federalism, and considering that funds earmarked for family allowances would not represent the total amount with regard to this standard, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether the provinces could not legislate on the budget surplus according to their needs.

Mr. Trudeau: There is no budget surplus, Mr. Speaker. The money which is derived from taxes is distributed through our various programs.

The province of Quebec is asking for an agreement which would suit them, and which we are interested in considering. However—I asked Mr. Bourassa this question, which I am now repeating in this House—we want to know whether the federal government is expected to sign

one agreement after another without ever being told what the province of Quebec has in mind when it talks of a clearer definition of jurisdiction in the sphere of social security. We want to know, through this agreement, what Quebec is trying to achieve in respect of constitutional amendments.

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[English]

HEALTH

PROVISION OF FREE DRUGS TO OLD AGE PENSIONERS
AND GRADED PAYMENTS BY THOSE ON LIMITED
INCOMES

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): My question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the Ontario government's decision to provide free medical and hospital care for old age pensioners and the poor after January 1 of next year, is the federal government prepared to give immediate consideration to a national drug care bill which will provide free drugs for all persons receiving old age pensions and graded payments for those on limited incomes who are now covered by medicare?

● (2:50 p.m.)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, we are already paying half the cost of free drugs for residents of Ontario, as we do for residents of all other provinces who are in need. We share that cost with the provinces.

Mr. Rynard: I realize that the minister is doing so in part and that there is no compulsion, but this government did bring in national medicare and I am now asking whether this will be completed by adding national drug care.

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TRADE

CANADA-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING—CONCLUSIONS
REACHED ON METHODS TO INCREASE CANADIAN SHARE
OF MANUFACTURED GOODS IMPORTED BY JAPAN

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he can tell the House what conclusions the Canadian and Japanese ministers reached when they discussed methods that might be adopted to increase Canada's share of manufactured goods being imported by Japan? I ask this question in view of the fact the minister said that this matter had been discussed and there is no mention of it in the communiqué.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is mention of it in the communiqué. We pressed the Japanese to make it possible for Canadian manufacturers to sell in Japan. In the course of the discussions, as reflected in the communiqué, the Japanese said that they were liberalizing trade and were decreasing the number of items under import restrictions. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce said that Canadian manufacturers were very anxious to get into