

PUBLIC SERVICE

**SUPERANNUATED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES—
REQUEST FOR INCREASED PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. A. Bell (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he received this week further representations from the Public Service Alliance of Canada urging him to take action before his retirement to increase the pensions of retired civil servants? Will the Prime Minister crown his career by acceding to this request as well as to the unanimous report of the special joint committee on the public service?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for his anxiety to have me crown my career. I have received such a letter. I have not yet dealt with it, at least in the way indicated by my hon. friend.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the Prime Minister indicate whether he will deal with this matter before the date of his retirement, and is April 25 a significant date since he mentioned it a little while ago?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's statement on this matter a little earlier indicates that by dealing with it he means dealing with it to his satisfaction, which is not quite the same thing. We will certainly give the matter consideration and do what we think is right in the circumstances.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

**HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SERVICES PAYMENTS
TO PROVINCES NOT UNDER MEDICARE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is very similar to the one I asked him last Monday which he took as notice. Will the minister indicate whether the federal government will be discontinuing payments for hospital and medical services to Indians in those provinces that have not come into the medicare plan by July 1?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is to be expected that if the medical care plan is universally applied to the provinces that will be the source of medical care services.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

**MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING
OF CONCILIATION BOARD**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Labour.

In view of the urgency and the importance of the matter, I should like the Minister of Labour or his colleague, the Member of the Administration responsible for studying the conflict between the shippers and the dockers in Montreal harbour, to tell us how far negotiations have progressed and when we can expect normal activities to be resumed in the largest port in Canada?

[English]

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I reported in the house a few days ago, the conciliation board chaired by Associate Chief Judge Gold has been working assiduously. Hearings opened last Friday and the parties have been at it more or less continuously this week. I get periodic reports, including one received today from the Minister without Portfolio who, at my request, has been taking a special interest in this matter. Encouraging progress is being made. That is about all I can say at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary question.

In view of the fact that this session will soon be adjourned, can the minister tell us whether normal activities in the harbour can be expected before resumption of the session, at the end of April?

[English]

Mr. Nicholson: There is no reason why not, if the good will that we hope will be shown by both parties is exhibited before the conciliation board.

IMMIGRATION

**REPORTED POSSIBLE INFLUX OF CHINESE
AND INDIANS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can the minister say whether there are any grounds for reports that because of administrative changes under way in the department