

try. It should have certain powers in the fiscal and social fields, as otherwise only the rich provinces would be able to assist their needy people and the less wealthy provinces would see their income reduced because they would receive no assistance under federal programs.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize one last supplementary on this subject and then go to the next subject.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I put this supplementary question to the Prime Minister. When he referred to the government's working papers by which it intends to stand, do these papers include the white paper on income security for Canadians which was tabled in the House last December and which implies a considerable degree of federal involvement in the maintenance of income security?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the paper, indeed, in which we made our position most clear and to which I was referring in answer to the Leader of the Opposition. It is in that paper that we indicated it is in the national interest, particularly of the less-favoured Canadians, that the federal government maintain jurisdiction in these areas. If it does not, the provinces will not be able to follow national standards and we will have the richer provinces helping their people to a greater degree than the poorer provinces will be able to do. That is why the federal government has taken the position that it is not a question of trying to keep power for ourselves, it is to keep power for the federal government in order that we will be able to redistribute the wealth across the country to individuals who need it.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEF AND POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister or the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, if such a person is in the House. In view of the gravity of the situation in East Pakistan and West Bengal, will the Prime Minister or the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs make a statement tomorrow on motions dealing with the whole situation and, in particular, with Canada's contribution to the massive humanitarian relief required and to the political settlement which is essential?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I could discuss the possibility of a statement with the department, although I could perhaps satisfy hon. members by answering questions. The Secretary of State for External Affairs will be back in Canada from Europe on Friday, I believe. Perhaps at that time he will want to make a statement as he did on May 28, but there is little to add to that statement. The figure of \$2 million was given to the House as the amount which has been offered

#### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

to the High Commissioner for Refugees at the United Nations. There have been various other bodies in Canada which have contributed generously to the relief of the plight of the East Pakistanis. The federal government has indicated a willingness to do even more if such moneys were needed.

**Mr. Brewin:** Can the Prime Minister tell the House what consultations, if any, are going on with other countries such as the United States, Britain or India with a view to united pressure of the world community to bring about the political settlement which is surely essential to dealing with the problem?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I know there have been discussions of this problem among various countries, but I cannot answer as to what results seem to be forthcoming. We do realize that, apart from the medical and other relief aspects, it is necessary to come to grips with the political problem, but we are not waiting, of course, for the latter to stand in the way while we are helping the refugees in every way we can.

##### EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES—ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY MEASURES TO COPE WITH PROBLEM

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, while the \$2 million to which the Prime Minister referred dealt with the situation as it obtained some time ago, in view of the fact that a new emergency has arisen, with some five million refugees now in India and the outbreak of cholera in Calcutta which could have disastrous consequences, is the Canadian government taking any immediate emergency measures in addition to the supply of vaccine, which I understand is being flown there today, in order to help India to cope with this monumental problem which has suddenly been thrust upon it?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are working through the World Health Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who are co-ordinating relief assistance with the Indian government. I repeat that the federal government indicated it was prepared to assist to the tune of \$2 million. The way in which this will be spent depends on the co-ordination possibilities which are required. It is apparently and obviously a very difficult task to co-ordinate relief on such a scale and under such political conditions, but we are doing it through the United Nations agencies.

Canadians have also been very helpful. OXFAM has contributed \$10,000 for general relief expenditure and has indicated its intention to provide up to \$140,000 for a field medical unit. Canadian Mennonites have provided \$30,000 and an additional \$35,000 has been pledged. The United Church has contributed \$25,000 and the Anglican church \$10,000 for field services.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I appreciate that the information is of interest to the House but perhaps this is the kind of detailed information which might more appropriately be provided to the House on motions.