

and has a much higher patient-doctor ratio than the United States, can the minister tell the House if any steps will be taken in conjunction with the provincial departments of health to follow the program announced recently by the University of Miami which will graduate exceptional PhD graduates as qualified physicians in two rather than four years?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the premise of the hon. member's question. I think he would agree that the doctor-patient ratio in Canada is one of the best in the world. So far as any technique we can work out with the provinces is concerned to increase medical and paramedical manpower in Canada by shortening the educational term or by some other device, we have been looking into this matter for some time.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, does the minister know what the figures are, because he has made a statement that is completely incorrect?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I respectfully suggest to the hon. member that this kind of question should normally be placed on the order paper. The hon. member is inviting the minister to give statistics. I do not think this is the kind of question which should be asked at this time.

Mr. Rynard: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY

REVISED FAMILY INCOME PLAN—PRESENTATION TO PROVINCE AND HOUSE—REMOVAL OF INCOME CEILING

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister advise if a revised family income security plan was presented to the provinces and, if so, when he will be presenting it to Parliament?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, various revisions have been considered. As I indicated to the hon. member in answer to previous questions, these revisions have been discussed with the provinces but nothing final has been determined with regard to them. I expect to have further meetings with the provinces during the summer.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise whether the government has decided to remove the \$10,000 ceiling in respect of the proposed family income security plan?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, when I answered a similar question by the hon. member a month or two ago I indicated that the government was looking at this arbitrary cut-off at \$10,000 because we are satisfied it does create certain inequities and we expect this particular feature will be changed.

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRANSPORT

TRANSFER OF TRENT VALLEY CANAL SYSTEM TO DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Could the minister advise the House if he has already transferred the Trent Valley canal system to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and, if not, will he do so very soon so this beautiful area can be made into a national park with the least possible delay?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No and yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, would the minister assure the House—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

* * *

TRADE

ACCESS FOR CANADIAN GRAIN FOLLOWING BRITISH ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the British government in its negotiations with the Common Market countries has now reached agreement to ensure that a guaranteed amount of New Zealand dairy products will enter that market, can the minister tell the House if negotiations are continuing or have been consistently carried on to guarantee access of some quantity of Canadian grain?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in the various conversations which were held with the United Kingdom in connection with these negotiations it was clear they would undertake only a fairly limited commitment with regard to securing access. This matter has been referred to by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. No firm commitment on levels has been made in relation to grain.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, what I really asked the minister, and what I hope he can tell us, is whether representations and negotiations are continuing with the United Kingdom government in this regard?

Mr. Lang: In the normal course of our relationships we are in constant touch with them in connection with these issues.

* * *

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. As a result of last evening's convincing victory by the MPs all-star ball team over the Press Gallery ball team, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare, through the amateur sport and fitness directorate,