

conference which is now going on. We have exchanged points of view. They are conditional upon reaching a further and final agreement in Victoria. There has been no unconditional suggestion for change by the federal government nor, as far as I know, by any of the provincial governments. Therefore these documents are purely for purposes of discussion. They do represent the position of the government of Canada if agreement is reached. As I say, they are not unconditional suggestions for change by the government of Canada, and therefore it would not be in the public interest to put them forth as such.

Mr. Lewis: In view of the crucial importance of all these discussions not only to those who happen to be leaders of governments at this time but to all the people of Canada and to future generations, would the Prime Minister undertake at some point to inform Parliament and the people of Canada as to the suggestions made and accepted or rejected, so that we may fully understand the discussions that are taking place?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, at a point following the Victoria conference.

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can justify operating in such an aura of secrecy in matters of such importance to the people?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this is argument.

[*Traduction*]

TRANSFER TO PROVINCES OF JURISDICTION OVER
SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering the different views held by the Quebec Health Minister on the powers of the provinces with regard to social services, would the Prime Minister tell the House if the responsible federal minister, who is presently taking part in the conference, has been authorized by the government to negotiate the transfer to Quebec of some jurisdiction over social services, and if that province was assured that it would get fiscal equivalence?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, according to the federal government, the conference now in progress is not a constitutional conference but one where the health ministers are trying to improve the general situation of the people of Canada within the framework of their respective social legislation.

I know that Quebec as well as other provinces have submitted some proposals. Furthermore, as I said in reply to a previous question, the Minister of National Health and Welfare is mainly involved in expounding the position of the federal government, which is derived from proposals included in the white paper which the minister tabled a few months ago.

Inquiries of the Ministry

As regards constitutional matters, I hope they will be decided upon in Victoria, but we do not intend to settle them at the conference now under way.

[*English*]

MANITOBA SUGGESTION THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S
SHARE UNDER CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN BE
INCREASED

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government is giving consideration to the suggestion made by Manitoba, as reported in the press, that the federal government's share under the Canada Assistance Plan be increased to 65 per cent?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am sure we will consider all suggestions made by any province, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot say more than that. This particular suggestion has not been made by the federal minister to the cabinet. Therefore he is not authorized to agree to it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Since the ministers which are now gathered in Ottawa are discussing the problem of social security or social services, I would like to ask him whether a report on this meeting will be tabled at the conference of first ministers which will be held in Victoria next week?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The conference which began yesterday and will continue today has been convened following the suggestion of the first ministers who thought in February that the conference should be held and that indeed a report be submitted to the Victoria conference. This report will be presented next week.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the House that perhaps we might set aside the additional supplementary questions a number of hon. members want to ask and go on to the next subject.

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ENERGY

PANARCTIC NATURAL GAS DISCOVERY—AREA FARM-OUT
AGREEMENTS WITH OIL COMPANIES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that Panarctic Oils, of which the federal government owns 45 per cent, is now in possession of one of the most important gas finds on the North American continent, may I ask him whether any of the Panarctic area has been farmed out to the Imperial Oil Company and are