

Inquiries of the Ministry

Can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us why the Dean of the Anglican Church in Johannesburg was condemned and why the reasons my hon. colleague gave are totally contrary to the facts submitted before the court in Johannesburg?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Sainte-Marie wishes to put a supplementary to the previous question.

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FINANCE**POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROVINCES**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one put by my colleague to the Right Honourable Prime Minister about the tax basis sharing between the provinces.

Does the Right Honourable Prime Minister intend to amend the tax basis sharing arrangement during the present session or are these measures contemplated for the next session only?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the present arrangements will expire next spring. However, it is anticipated that new arrangements will be entered into between the provinces and the federal government before the expiration date. The government will report to the House in due course.

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

I would like to ask the Prime Minister for further details. Is his answer to be construed as to mean that the provinces simply cannot hope that the tax basis sharing will be changed before 1972 or 1973?

• (2:40 p.m.)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since the present agreements will only come to an end in several months hence, we are certainly not contemplating the unilateral termination of those agreements before they run out.

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[English]

HEALTH**RECONSIDERATION OF CANCELLATION OF RESEARCH GRANT TO NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the minister's loudly and frequently announced concern about cancer and its relationship to tobacco, will he reconsider his decision to cut off federal grants for cancer research through the National Cancer Institute?

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, for many years we have supported the institute of which the hon. member speaks and we are

[Mr. Rondeau.]

prepared to discuss their budget with them again. I would advise, though, that much federal money goes into cancer research of one kind or another, most of it through the Medical Research Council.

DISCUSSIONS WITH TOBACCO INDUSTRY ON TERMINATION DATE FOR CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister indicate the status and, hopefully, the progress of the talks which I understand are going on between representatives of his department and the tobacco industry in regard to the termination date for all cigarette advertising?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, there are technical discussions going on almost continuously between the department and the tobacco interests, but as far as the termination date is concerned we know nothing more than what the tobacco manufacturers themselves have said. They have publicly announced that, in terms of broadcasting, their termination date is the end of this year.

Mr. Mather: Is it not a fact that the meetings that are taking place are seeking to establish a target date for the termination of all cigarette advertising?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of argument.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Considering that the prime ministers are going to meet in a few days' time, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the program of that meeting has been decided upon, and whether it will be made public before the opening of the conference. Also, in view of the concern expressed by some provinces about implementation of the new tax system, will this issue be discussed with the prime ministers?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I followed the usual procedure of submitting to provincial premiers, two or three weeks ago, a draft program based on the issues that the provinces and ourselves feel should be discussed. Again according to established procedure, the first thing that the conference will do will be to agree to that program or amend it—and only then will the program be made public.

However, as I said earlier when I answered a question from a member of the Social Credit party, I think, and another one from the Progressive Conservative member for Sainte-Marie (Mr. Valade), it is the intention of the government to discuss the tax sharing arrangements if the provinces so wish.