

Inquiries of the Ministry

do its business more expeditiously. Another measure deals with the availability of funds to opposition parties as a means of obtaining the services of researchers that would assist them in asking better questions and finding some of the answers.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the hon. member that this subject should not be pursued further.

[English]

OIL**EFFECT ON INDUSTRY OF NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Was the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources expressing government policy when he told the Canadian Petroleum Association in Calgary on Tuesday that there would be no special consideration for Canadian oil in a national energy policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will have to verify the statement, Mr. Speaker; I am not aware of it.

Mr. Aiken: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the minister if he would make available copies of his remarks in Calgary either to the house or individually to hon. members.

Mr. Orlikow: Or to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Trudeau: Send it by mail.

Mr. Hees: Not until after Easter, then.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have the tape of my remarks transcribed and make a copy of the transcript available to the hon. member. I appreciate his interest. I would only like to say that the particular reference to the speech he has made, and several others which I have seen, would not be verified by the transcript.

Mr. Aiken: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister provide representatives of the petroleum industry with any indication of the position that would be taken on behalf of Canadian oil by the Prime Minister in his meetings next week?

Mr. Lang: No, I did not, Mr. Speaker. I in fact explained to the representatives of the oil [Mr. Trudeau.]

industry that clearly I would not be in a position to speak on that subject. I told the oil industry some pretty simple home truths about the reasonable positions they should expect, that they would have to take in Canada. I also told them quite plainly that they could expect the government of Canada to take a reasonable position in regard to them.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF THE VATICAN**

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister done anything about his undertaking to sample public opinion in regard to Canada's recognition of the Vatican?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. We have done a great deal of sampling in cabinet and in caucus. We have had a lot of opinions expressed to the government in caucus and I have, of course, received a great deal of mail myself. But there has been no so-called scientific sampling of public opinion.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is it scientific when you get it from your own party?

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**MEDICARE—PARTICIPATION BY ONTARIO**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister in a position to make any statement concerning the discussions between himself and the minister of health of Ontario with respect to the prospect of that province coming into medicare?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have nothing further to add, other than what I said about a week and a half ago subsequent to my last meeting with him.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question. Can the minister indicate to the house how many other provinces, apart from those that are already in medicare, are discussing this possibility with the federal government?

Mr. Munro: My information is that three additional provinces will be coming in as of April 1 of this year, and that at least one or two others are considering coming in but have not definitely made up their minds.