

Inquiries of the Ministry

time say whether it will share in the added grants necessary to settle the dispute in the province of Saskatchewan?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, under the Hospital Act the amount of federal sharing is well known in terms of operating expenses of hospitals. We will share in accordance with that well known formula with the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Skoberg: Will the minister say whether any request has been received from the premier of Saskatchewan for any increase in grants to settle this dispute in that province?

Mr. Munro: Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): My question is to the President of the Privy Council. Is the government prepared to introduce measures to counteract the depressed state of western football following yesterday afternoon's proceedings?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will do my best to prevent this from becoming a further cause for western alienation.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the minister give consideration to making a full statement before the Christmas recess as to the future construction of the several hospitals which were to be commenced next year under the guidance of his department and which have now been shelved, such as the hospital planned at Hudson, Manitoba?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I will look into the particular hospital the hon. member referred to.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): A supplementary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Have there been any discussions between him and his counterpart in the province of Saskatchewan or between him and the government of Saskatchewan relating to the conditions of payment of the provincial

[Mr. Skoberg.]

and federal share of costs of hospitalization in Saskatchewan?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, the discussions that have taken place with the health minister for Saskatchewan are of the same nature as those discussions which are being carried on with every other provincial health minister, namely, going into methods by which the federal and provincial governments can cooperate in limiting costs in this whole area.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AID OBJECTIVE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): My question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the doubt that now exists whether the government of Canada intends to achieve the objective of providing 1 per cent of the gross national product for foreign aid in the early 1970's, when will the Prime Minister be able to indicate to the House the government's objective in this regard and whether the 1 per cent objective still remains? Also, in what year does the government propose to meet this objective?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, subject to correction I believe I did say in the month of August when I announced the guidelines for the ensuing year that we would not be moving toward this objective in the coming year, but that we would be keeping the same position in the sense that we are going to be giving substantially more, many millions of dollars more, to external aid in the coming year. We are not, however, increasing our contribution measured as a percentage of our gross national product.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Am I to assume that the government has at least temporarily abandoned the goal it previously adopted of achieving a level for foreign aid of 1 per cent of the gross national product in the early 1970's?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. We have not abandoned it but we have not reaffirmed it for the coming year because of the reason I gave. We decided that we were going to be giving more but that we could not increase our percentage. We felt that this was necessary in view of the over-all guidelines expenditure program which we announced last summer. We tried to freeze most areas of