

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, one of the advantages of the information program will be to make the Canadian people generally and thereby, of course, the municipalities, aware of the provisions of the Canada Assistance Plan. I am afraid it is true even to this day that the awareness is not as complete as it should be. As a result of the program, I would think that municipalities could apply to the provinces for projects such as work activity projects that must be submitted to the federal government through the provinces in order to create the needed stimulus for employment that the opposition as well as the government desires.

CANCELLATION OF GRANT TO HAMILTON WELFARE
RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House if he is planning to cut off any additional groups of applicants for welfare simply because they are too outspoken in their demands?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had examined the reasons for the discontinuance of this particular grant he would not have made such an inane statement.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I asked a simple question. Can the minister not answer yes or no?

Mr. Munro: At the moment we do not intend to cut off any further grants. That is at the moment. Some are under review.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the continued publicity and the general public concern about the cutting off of a \$35,000 grant to a poor peoples' group in Hamilton, will the minister now tell the House the true story behind this whole thing?

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HUMAN RIGHTS

RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS BY CANADA

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. On Friday, December 10, the anniversary of human rights day, the Prime Minister issued a statement having to do with the submission of a brief by the Human Rights League and the B'Nai B'rith Association, particularly in connection with three important documents that were voted for by Canada in 1966 having to do with human and civil rights. Since there has been a long period of consultation with the provinces over these documents leading toward eventual ratification and signing, could the Prime Minister indicate when we might expect to see some final action taken in this regard? Could he also indicate the procedures that will be taken? In view of the federal nature of the country, our approach might perhaps need to be a little different from the approach other countries might take.

[Mr. McGrath.]

• (3:00 p.m.)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the facts of the matter are that, since Canada voted for these conventions there has been consultation with the provinces and we have asked them to say to what degree they can support the federal government's signature and ratification of the two covenants. Some provinces agreed to go along with the federal government. Other provinces did not agree. We have continued the consultations. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has arranged to have ministers of provincial governments responsible for human rights attend United Nations sessions. We have tried in various other ways to convince the provinces of the importance of permitting Canada, as a federal country, to proceed with signature and ratification of these covenants. The Secretary of State for External Affairs wrote again last month to all provinces to see if they would hasten their acceptance of this procedure. As the House knows, there have been changes of governments in some provinces. Perhaps we will have more success this time around. I will gladly ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to report to the House in due course.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): It might be helpful if the Secretary of State for External Affairs could very shortly make a statement on motions indicating in some detail at least the major objections that have been raised on the part of the provinces, and indicating what procedures might be taken by the federal government in order to achieve the generally desired aim of ratifying and signing these important documents.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it was not a question of objections in all cases. In some cases they asked for further explanations. In other cases they did not answer. I believe in some cases some provinces refused to concur. As I said, some of these provincial governments may have changed their minds or may have changed themselves. That is why the Secretary of State for External Affairs has renewed his correspondence with them. I do not believe it will be possible at this time to make a statement in any detail about the position of these various provinces. I merely urge that any interested parties put pressure on the provinces rather than on the federal government at this time.

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IMMIGRATION

ROOSEVELT DOUGLAS—POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF
DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS WHILE APPEAL PENDING—
PROPRIETY OF PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is addressed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister instruct his officials to suspend the deportation proceedings pending against one Roosevelt Douglas, who has entered an appeal from his conviction to the Quebec Court of Appeal and has posted \$14,000 bail that he will be available at the hearing of the appeal, at least until his appeal has been heard so that this man shall not be actually denied his right of appeal?