

Inquiries of the Ministry

assure the house that the special departmental study group will not go into those provinces in which recognized leaders of Indian associations are not prepared to discuss this question directly with the study group?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, a distinction has to be made. We are prepared to talk with the Indian people. However, nobody should be allowed to forbid the minister or his officials to meet with the said Indian people when it is deemed necessary.

I have started on a visit of all the Canadian provinces and talked with the Indian leaders who were willing to meet me. I consider that I shall always have the privilege, on behalf of the citizens of Canada, of meeting any Indian in Canada without having to proceed forever through the medium of certain people whose sole purpose is to create a sensation.

[*English*]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the minister. I am trying to help him not participate in this divide and rule policy. When does he intend to make funds available to the native Indian people so they may make arrangements to meet the minister themselves and participate amongst themselves in a consultation process that is meaningful in order that they may come to a consensus on this question rather than selecting, as is being done, private groups and individuals to meet and obtain prepared answers?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I would like to correct the hon. member. I make no selection at all. I make myself available to all Indian leaders who want to talk to me. I would tell the hon. member that I hope to have these funds available soon.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could ask another supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether I could have the co-operation of the hon. member, as I have had in respect of other hon. members, so we may get on with the question period.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICAL RESEARCH—REQUEST THAT GRANT BE INCREASED**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to

[Mr. Thompson.]

the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the institution of an increased training program to provide doctors in Ontario, will the minister state whether he will give further consideration to restoring the cut of 30 per cent made in respect of medical research?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I do not agree with the conclusion the hon. member has reached, Mr. Speaker. There has not been a 30 per cent cut in medical research.

LABOUR RELATIONS**VANCOUVER, B.C.—POSSIBILITY OF LONG-SHOREMEN'S STRIKE**

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a most important question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister in a position to bring members of the house up to date on the situation regarding negotiations between employers and the longshoremen's union in Vancouver, in view of the fact that a lockout or strike in August would have a deleterious effect upon the already serious position of Canadian grain growers?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I received the conciliation board report yesterday and have mailed copies of it to both sides, the employers and unions involved. I do not know, of course, what their reaction will be to the report. I understand that talks are continuing. There is a grave possibility that there will be a strike in the Vancouver area at the end of July, which would have an effect upon wheat that would normally be shipped through that port.

I must remind hon. members that if a strike occurs it will be a perfectly legal one, and if a lockout occurs it will be a perfectly legal one. It is not the policy of the government to interfere with the legal rights of either companies or unions involved unless the situation develops into a national emergency, and it is certainly too early to think in that vein.

Mr. Winch: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister considered changing the approach of his department to this matter and having observers present so that the negotiations will assume a more official status?