

*Inquiries of the Ministry*TRANSFER OF TRENT CANAL SYSTEM TO
DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND
NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): My question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of statements made by the minister recently concerning the transfer of the Trent Canal system to his department from the Department of Transport, will the minister tell the House the total area involved in the transfer, and whether the lakes that feed the system will come under the jurisdiction of the national parks service?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the type of information he is seeking should normally be obtained by way of a question on the Order Paper.

POLLUTION

COMPENSATION TO LAKE WINNIPEG
FISHERMEN FOR MERCURY CON-
TAMINATION OF FISH

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. It is in connection with the Red River which is an international river. Because of mercury poisoning, Lake Winnipeg has been placed under fishing taboo. Will the government compensate the fishermen who normally fish the Red River and Lake Winnipeg to the same extent as fishermen in other areas are being compensated? I ask this question because of the doubt that is being expressed in Winnipeg and the area surrounding Winnipeg.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I have to agree that what is good for the fishermen of Lake St. Clair should be good for the fishermen of western Canada.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I agree that it "should be good", but will the minister be as definite as he usually is and say whether the farmers—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker:—the fishermen—most of them are farmers too—along the Red River and on Lake Winnipeg will receive the same compensation? I ask the minister to be more definite and not merely say that what is good for one is good for the other, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. I want to know whether these payments are going to be made.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

Mr. Davis: I will be discussing this method of compensation with the Hon. Mr. Green of the Manitoba government on Monday, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You don't know yet. Is it not going to be done?

INDIAN AFFAIRS

AVAILABILITY OF COQUALEETZA HOSPITAL
LAUNDRY FACILITIES TO INDIANS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister in a position to make an announcement regarding the laundry facilities at Coqualeetza Hospital near Chilliwack being made available to the native Indian people in that area?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not. I know that this matter is being looked into, but there has been no final decision made with respect to it.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question. Has the minister received a telegram from Wilbur Campbell on behalf of the North American Indian Brotherhood complaining that the response from the minister in this regard was to the effect that it would take many months to work out an agreement with the native Indian people on this matter?

Mr. Munro: To my knowledge I have not received such a telegram. Any negotiations we have had with Mr. Campbell have been with respect to a feasibility study that my department funded him to carry out. I understand that no decision will be made until the feasibility study is received. It is expected it will not be received until the end of May.

SOCIAL SECURITY

METHOD OF PREPARATION OF
WHITE PAPER—TABLING

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions asked earlier regarding the white paper on social security. Could the Prime Minister tell the House which department of government is preparing this white paper and how soon the government expects it will be tabled?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a multi-departmental project, but it is essentially under the direction of the Minister of National Health and Welfare.