

Inquiries of the Ministry

and Welfare. In view of the fact that Manitoba will be entering the medicare plan on April 1—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Simpson: They will be sorry.

—can the minister assure the house that medical services available to the Indian people of that province will in no way be adversely affected?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was surprised to hear the comment made by the hon. member in view of the fact that his party voted for the legislation. I would hope that the medical services available to the Indians would be improved.

Mr. Simpson: Bearing in mind the fact that a number of doctors in that province have indicated they will be practising outside the medicare plan, will the Indian people have the services of these doctors available to them, in addition to the services of those who are within the plan?

Mr. Munro: I should like to check into that situation a little further. However I can assure the hon. member that as a result of the tremendous improvements which have taken place in Manitoba, improvements of which I am sure he is well aware, including the participation of the medical school of the University of Manitoba and so on, it seems that the future holds great promise for vastly improved medical care for the Indian people of that province.

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time and I wonder whether we might return to the hon. member for Mackenzie who has a supplementary question on the subject about which questions were asked a few moments ago.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**POINT ROBERTS—DISCUSSIONS AS TO INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I wonder if I might address a question to the Minister of Public Works in his capacity as senior minister from beautiful British Columbia. Can he tell us the situation at this time with respect to the talks between the United States and Canada on the subject of the internationalization of the United States area of Point Roberts?

[Mr. Simpson.]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking for a statement which should be made on motions.

[Later:]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Surrey and is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Was the question of Point Roberts, and a special treaty between Canada and the United States to resolve some of the problems connected with that subject, a matter for discussion with United States officials yesterday, especially in view of the meeting of the House of Representatives in Washington and members of the legislature of British Columbia in the west?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, there was no specific mention of this in any of the discussions I had with the secretary of state. The Prime Minister, of course, had a general talk about certain areas, such as fishing zones and territorial waters, but did not specifically raise that point.

[Translation]

CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON CONCERNING QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us if, during his visit with President Nixon, any reference was made to the constitutional problems of Canada, and, in particular, to the possibility of independence in Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, we had other fish to fry.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE**

Mr. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): I have a question for the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker. Could he advise us whether he intends to bring in amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act during the present session, which are not tied to the Woods report?