

Inquiries of the Ministry

to express the views which the Secretary of State for External Affairs has expressed in the House, that is to say, our very serious concern about the possibility of pollution if this route is adopted.

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister indicate whether there have been consultations with British Columbia about the forthcoming meeting on May 3?

Mr. Trudeau: I could not say, Mr. Speaker.

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WELFARE

INELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS ON STRIKE FOR PAYMENTS UNDER SASKATCHEWAN ASSISTANCE ACT—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ON BREACH OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the Saskatchewan government by Order in Council has decreed that no person on strike is considered to be eligible for assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Act, and in view of the fact that the money paid under that act comes in part from the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan, can the minister say whether he is getting in touch with the government of Saskatchewan concerning this breach of the agreement under the Canada Assistance Plan?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have to advise the hon. member we would have to know the particulars of each individual case involving an application for social assistance. We would have to have knowledge of the facts concerning whether or not it was a case of genuine need and whether in fact the assistance was denied contrary to the basic criteria as to need established under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If the minister ascertains that this is the case, will he be in touch with Saskatchewan about it?

Mr. Munro: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TRIP BY INDIAN AFFAIRS MINISTER TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—FAILURE TO INCLUDE RALLIEMENT CRÉDITISTE MEMBER

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Yesterday, in his reply to a question put to him by the member for Athabasca, he said that he had visited several countries, including Australia and New Zealand, for the benefit of Canadians and he added:

—and I know that the hon. member deeply resented not being chosen by his party as a member of the delegation.

So, my question is the following: Can the minister outline the reasons that prevented him from asking our party to appoint a representative in the delegation that was visiting those countries?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have formed a delegation comprising three government members and two members of the Opposition. I thought that it would be sufficient to represent the House of Commons. The delegation did quite a good job during that trip.

Mr. Caouette: I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I do not want to know whether the delegation did a good job, but if the minister recognizes that there are four political parties in the House and that each party is entitled to be represented on any Canadian delegation.

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[English]

FINANCE

OVERDUE INDEBTEDNESS OF PAKISTAN TO WORLD BANK—CANADIAN POSITION IN LIGHT OF INTERNAL CONFLICT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister advise the House whether Canada has joined other members of the World Bank in indicating to Pakistan that its overdue indebtedness to the World Bank can no longer continue and that in this way the World Bank is taking a position of putting pressure on Pakistan in light of the recent troubles in that country?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I should like to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN PUBLIC GATHERINGS—REVIEW BY SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice. In view of the apparent conflict between the Prince Edward Island Public Order Act and the freedom of assembly guaranteed by the Canadian Bill of Rights, and the dubious constitutional validity of the act, is the government giving consideration to an early referral of that act for the judicial determination of the Supreme Court of Canada?