

Inquiries of the Ministry

Following the constitutional conference which ended yesterday, does the federal government still intend to withdraw from all joint programs with the provinces, and was this question raised during the discussions?

Mr. Trudeau: Indeed this question was raised, Mr. Speaker, and I indicated that as long as the constitutional question is not dealt with and a specific definition of the spending power in this field given, it would be difficult to make any definite promises.

We want to know what joint programs should be considered under federal jurisdiction, and which ones should not.

[*English*]

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF MEDICARE

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of some of the exchanges that have taken place at the constitutional conference, would the Prime Minister be ready to give an assurance to this house that the medicare program will not be abandoned as a result of these discussions?

Mr. Woolliams: It does not matter what it costs.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think that the only concession the government was prepared to make on medicare—which I stated openly at the conference—was that if the ten provinces could agree among themselves that medicare should not be implemented, it would not be.

[*Translation*]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Gérard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration): This is not a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, but it is vaguely related to the federal-provincial conference. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he knows that last night, at the Montreal Forum, the House of Commons team beat the Quebec National Assembly team 8 to 1?

[*English*]

An hon. Member: Who were the three stars?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

[*Mr. Caouette.*]

TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE ABANDONMENT OF NORTHUMBERLAND CAUSEWAY

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a question with reference to the statement made at the conference yesterday by the premier of Prince Edward Island concerning the possible abandonment of the Northumberland Strait crossing, and the need for a full statement by the Prime Minister on the financial implications of continuing the ferry service, as compared with the cost of constructing a causeway. Would the Prime Minister be prepared to make a statement on motions explaining to the Canadian people the implications of either of these possible decisions?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Either I or one of my colleagues will make a statement on this subject in the near future.

Some hon. Members: When?

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TELEVISIONING OF HOUSE AND COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Prime Minister. In the light of the apparent success of the televising of the dominion-provincial conference, at least as far as some of the participants are concerned, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is reconsidering the question of televising proceedings of the House of Commons, perhaps starting with committees?

GRAIN

WHEAT—CONSIDERATION OF TWO-PRICE SYSTEM

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether in view of the resolutions passed by the three western pools and also by the farm organizations in the west in favour of the two price system for wheat, reconsideration has been given to this question, having regard to his support of this proposition during the many years in which he sat on this side of the house, and the fact that it was included among undertakings given in two Liberal election campaigns.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. gentleman knows, the debate respecting a two price system for wheat has been going on for many