

Inquiries of the Ministry

discussions that the Prime Minister might have with the President of the United States on questions of armaments and defence sharing. Would the Prime Minister indicate whether, in determining positions before he goes to Washington, he has concluded that this might be an area where we may have to make some major concessions with respect to future purchases of equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not see how a member can ask the government to say in advance that it is seriously prepared to make a concession in a negotiation that has not yet begun.

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH U.S. PRESIDENT—REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of his pending visit to Washington on Monday next, would he consider placing high on his agenda of discussions with President Nixon an item asking for the President's full support in a move to re-activate the International Grains Arrangement, more particularly as it would establish a floor price for wheat?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will take the hon. member's suggestion under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

FAMILY INCOME SECURITY

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since the right hon. Prime Minister indicated yesterday that he could not give an assurance that negotiations on social security with the province of Quebec will be completed before the introduction of that province's family allowance bill on December 25, could the minister indicate what stage negotiations have reached at the present time?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): There are ongoing discussions, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO BILL C-264

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St-George's-St-Barbe): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate when we can expect second reading of Bill C-264, and is it still his intention to put increased family allowances into effect before May 1, 1972?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the government to proceed with the legislation depending on the time available in the House for it and on discussions with the provinces, including Quebec. Precisely when it will come before the House depends on both these matters.

[Mr. Forrestall.]

HEALTH

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS FOR NURSES IN MIDWIFERY TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the serious and acute shortage of doctors, is the government prepared to explore ways of assisting the provinces in establishing programs for nurses in midwifery? In this respect, I mention the program which is currently being undertaken in the province of Ontario?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, through national health grants we are already supporting many demonstration projects being carried out in the provinces through medical schools, having this purpose in mind.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED APPROVAL OF ROUTE OF PIPELINE THROUGH LANDS COVERED BY TREATIES 8 AND 11

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would like to ask the minister whether he has conveyed to Westcoast Transmission Company a letter of intent with regard to a right of way for what is known as the Pointed Mountain Pipeline and, if he did, was he aware of the fact that this proposed pipeline would pass through territory involved in Treaties 8 and 11, concerning which no settlement of Indian lands has been arrived at?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes.

As for the second part, the hon. member himself gave the answer when he said that treaties nos. 8 and 11 have not been settled, which means that no lands have been made available to Indians in that area of the country.

[English]

REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF APPROVAL FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether in view of the objections to his course of action, which have been voiced by the Indians of the Northwest Territories, he will inform Westcoast Transmission that he is suspending this approval for the time being, and certainly until the Energy Board has held its hearings?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we consulted with Indians of the Liard River area in that regard and several of them worked at the construction of installations there, and will later work on the pipeline project. I do not think it would be wise to take a new decision at this stage.