

Inquiries of the Ministry

but not legally. Because of their married status they do not qualify for full social benefits.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member might agree with me that this is a question of a very general scope and the type of question which normally would call for a statement on motions. I wonder whether the hon. member might like to qualify his question in this way.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question, may I ask the minister whether he will make a statement on motions in respect of this problem?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the question or statement made by the hon. member I do not believe a statement is required. This matter is under consideration for review and revision of the act.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**RESERVE FORCES—FURTHER DISCUSSIONS
WITH CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE
ASSOCIATIONS**

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether he can assure the house that there will be further discussions, either by himself or by representatives of the department, with the Conference of Defence Associations before a final decision is taken with regard to the continuing strength of the reserve forces, especially the militia?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I indicated yesterday that we already had consulted with the Defence Associations. There is to be a further meeting or meetings some time in early August I believe. Discussions and negotiations will be continued with the Conference of Defence Associations.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MAINLAND CHINA—PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS
REGARDING DIPLOMATIC
RECOGNITION**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has he anything to pass on to the house regarding the progress being made in the conversations which have been going on in Stockholm for some time now regarding recognition of Communist China by this country?

[Mr. Rynard.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, toward the end of last week there were further discussions on the outstanding issues. I cannot really say anything more about them except that the negotiations are tough and may continue for some time.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, could the minister advise the house what advantages the government believes will accrue to Canada, if we are permitted to recognize Communist China, that will make up for the humiliation this country has succumbed to for the past eight months?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member will recognize that if the minister is to reply it should be on motions and not by way of a reply to a question.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, probably the minister would be able to clarify the situation in connection with the negotiations going on with Mao's representatives. Has there been any indication given, as rumour has it, that the Communist government of Red China is prepared to accept recognition provided Taiwan is sacrificed, and will in compensation purchase additional wheat rather than purchasing wheat from Australia which does not recognize it?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, as far as I know the question of wheat has never entered into the negotiations on recognition.

DRUGS**TETRACYCLINE—ALLEGED FRAUD BY U.S.
COMPANIES IN OBTAINING PATENT**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of which I have given him notice. In light of the fact that the United States government has filed a \$25 million damage suit against American Cyanamid and Chas. Pfizer and Co. for fraudulently obtaining a patent for the antibiotic drug tetracycline, can the minister indicate whether his department is investigating if similar fraudulence has occurred in Canada in respect of the same companies?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, following receipt of information about this officials will be getting in contact with United States