

[English]

## HEALTH

FINANCING OF NURSING HOMES—INCLUSION ON AGENDA  
OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—  
AMENDMENT OF ACT

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Since the Minister of National Health and Welfare is not in the House, although this is his day, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister if I can get his attention. Will the financing of nursing home care be placed on the agenda of the upcoming federal-provincial conference, or is the government going to introduce an amendment to the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act so that there will be federal assistance for nursing homes across the country?

[Translation]

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, this question will be brought to the attention of the minister, who will undoubtedly consider it with the greatest care.

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[English]

## AGRICULTURE

POTATOES—REQUEST BY PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND  
NEW BRUNSWICK FOR ASSISTANCE

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. What has he to report to the House on the question of assistance to potato growers in the Atlantic provinces as a result of his meeting last Monday with the Minister of Agriculture from that area?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the representation that we received from the Ministers of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick was of a somewhat different nature from that of the past—in that they were not asking for a program under the Agricultural Stabilization Act. There were good reasons for that which I cannot explain now. This is a new departure in the form of assistance and we are looking at it very carefully.

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## OIL

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—NATURE OF  
DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES—COMPOSITION  
OF DELEGATION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I believe that on Monday next the minister will be meeting with Mr. William Rogers, Secretary of State of the United States. Is the minister planning to have discussions with him regarding the trans-Alaska pipeline system and will any studies on the ecological dangers of transporting oil by tanker down the Pacific coast be presented to the American government? If

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

so, by whom have they been prepared? Also, will there be representatives of the Canadian Department of Transport with the minister when he makes these representations?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has asked whether I am going to be present at these meetings. On the contrary, these meetings are going to be held at the official level. The Canadian delegation will be led by the Director General of the Bureau of Economic and Scientific Affairs of the Department of External Affairs. There will be officials of the Department of Transport, the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, the Canadian embassy in Washington, and the province of British Columbia.

**Mr. Douglas:** I may have misunderstood the Prime Minister the other day. I was under the impression that the Secretary of State for External Affairs would be meeting Mr. Rogers. May I ask if such a meeting has been arranged, because the minister will recall that some time ago he indicated his intention of having discussions with Mr. Rogers regarding the TAPS program?

**Mr. Sharp:** What I said in the House was that I had been in touch with Mr. Rogers to arrange a meeting. The Prime Minister has confirmed to me that he did not indicate that I would be present or that Mr. Rogers would be present. As the House knows, Mr. Rogers is engaged in a very important mission in the Middle East, and we certainly would not want to bring him back to meet with me at this time.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask if any representations regarding the proposed underground nuclear testing on Amchitka Island be made at this meeting? If so, what representations will the Canadian government be making?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the House will agree that the purpose of this meeting should be to examine the dangers to the environment from the building of the trans-Alaska pipeline and the accompanying movement of oil by tankers down the west coast. We have made representations to the United States in connection with the Amchitka tests. The President of the United States has not yet made a decision. I hope he will make one that recognizes the dangers we have pointed out.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Has there been some omission in the list of officials read by the Secretary of State for External Affairs? He did not mention anyone from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. When I asked for some information from ministers the other day, the Prime Minister said I would have to get that information from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources as he is in charge of this operation.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, but he is not in charge of the mission to Washington.