

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

one voice at the federal-provincial conferences, as does each province.

**Mr. Simpson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am certainly glad to hear that representatives of the Northwest Territories will be present at the conference. However, when I asked the Prime Minister the other day if representatives of the Indian people would be allowed to attend, he said there would be no delegates other than those representing the provinces and the federal government.

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Will he discuss the future of the Yukon with the premier of British Columbia at the provincial conference next week?

## ATTENDANCE OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS AS OBSERVERS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I believe he has already indicated that provision is to be made at the federal-provincial conference next week for observers from the opposition parties. What arrangements are being made, and will we receive information shortly as to what those arrangements are?

**Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I can assure the Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of the other parties, Mr. Speaker, that there will be space available for observers from all parties in this house. The exact number of seats depends on the number of seats which will have to be allotted to provincial government observers. We have not had replies from all of them indicating how many observers they want to bring. The cut-off date will be very soon, so I think we will be in a position to approach the leaders of the parties and tell them how many seats they will have. It will be approximately the same number as last year or perhaps a few less if the provinces ask for more room.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

## INQUIRY AS TO TESTS OF ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER

On the orders of the day:

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the [Mr. Trudeau.]

Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the recent highly suggestive findings of the U.S. food and drug administration that cyclamate, the artificial sweetener used in many dietetic foods and soft drinks, causes chromosome damage in animals with the danger of cancer, a shortened life span and congenital abnormalities, have any tests of this sweetener been made in Canada and, if not, will the minister ask the food and drug directorate to investigate it?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the food and drug directorate is investigating this matter.

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON HEALTH RESOURCE FUND GRANTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he would make a statement on motions on the results of his discussions with provincial health ministers and his own senior staff on the future of national health resource funds grants?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the discussions have gone far enough at this early date to enable me to announce anything.

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## DATE OF PAYMENT OF RETROACTIVE PAY INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could ask the two distinguished gentlemen across the way, the Minister of National Defence and his seatmate, the President of the Treasury Board, whether or not they can now unequivocally indicate to the civilian employees of the Department of National Defence that they will receive their retroactive pay increases?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member is not simply restating a question asked before. Perhaps there is a distinction between this question and the one asked previously, and if there is the minister might reply.

**Mr. Forrestall:** The question is a restatement, of course, but earlier neither minister