

West Block in any way for the specific purpose of making it into a series of committee rooms?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** I cannot believe that this would be possible, although I heard some rumour to that effect the other day. That room however has special uses. I think it will be in use in February, again, and we must keep it as it is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

### MEDICAL FACILITIES IN NORTHERN AREAS

**Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk):** My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of a statement by the national director of northern health services to the effect that the most elementary medical facilities are lacking in the north country, can the minister say whether any specific program or course of action is being contemplated by his department to provide these basic facilities?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the hon. member, but I do acknowledge that there is room for improvement. We have been working for several months now to improve the situation. A greater allocation of moneys is being set aside for that purpose. We are improving and increasing our facilities, and doing so as a matter of urgency. We are also trying to recruit additional and more adequate personnel.

**Mr. Schreyer:** A supplementary question. When the minister says that he does not accept my premise, is he wishing to indicate that he does not accept the statement that was made by—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is debate, of course.

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

### SEMINARS FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the government has enabled Canadian judges to hold a yearly seminar to permit judges to update themselves on the changes in the law, would the minister consider a similar seminar for

## *Inquiries of the Ministry*

lawyers, so that the lawyers may know what the judges are talking about, and a similar seminar for the Canadian public so that the public may know what the judges and the lawyers are talking about?

## AGRICULTURE

### OBSERVERS FROM POLITICAL PARTIES AT MARCH CONFERENCE

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. At the conference on agriculture which is to be held in March will provision be made for observers from all parties in the house?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think the answer is yes. In any event we are working on this, and we hope it will be possible to make the suggested arrangement.

## DRUGS

### OPIUM AND MARIJUANA—CONTROLS UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Are present Canadian controls on opium and marijuana in accord with the International Narcotics Convention and, if so, is the government considering the amendment or withdrawal of Canada's support of that convention?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The first question leaves me in doubt as to its validity, in that the hon. member is asking for an interpretation of a statute or law. Perhaps the minister may want to reply to the second question.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** No, Mr. Speaker, not that I am aware of.

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

### DISMISSAL OF COMMISSIONAIRES FROM NATIONAL MUSEUMS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State. In view of some questions which were put to him earlier, and also to the Prime Minister, with regard to commissioners whose jobs and hours have been changed, and some of whom may have been let go—the Prime Minister said the other day he thought not, but I am informed that there may have been lay-offs—would the minister consider making a statement to the house in