

making arrangements to provide free drugs to senior citizens who are receiving old age supplements? I ask this question in view of the fact that all provinces are not able to participate in the arrangements under the Canada Assistance Act, which are not working out too well.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I do not believe that information to be correct. To the best of my knowledge all the provinces are participating in the Canada Assistance Plan under which provision is made to meet these payments on the basis of need. This includes medical charges and drugs.

WATER RESOURCES

DIVERSION OF WATER FROM HUDSON AND JAMES BAYS

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): My question is for the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. Is the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in co-operation with the Ontario department of energy and resources actively involved in the planning of a proposed massive water diversion program to take water from the Hudson and James Bays watershed in northwestern Ontario and divert it into Lake Superior?

An hon. Member: Ten years old.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure to what degree the hon. member's question is urgent. It might very well be discussed at the time of adjournment. If there is urgency, I will be pleased to see that his question is given priority at ten o'clock.

Mr. Penner: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. With due respect, there is a great deal of urgency attached to this question. I have just returned from this region.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Penner: A great many of the Indian population as well as the tourist camp operators have heard there may be such a plan for massive water diversion. They are fearful and uncertain—

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. minister may wish to reply—at ten o'clock.

Inquiries of the Ministry CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

REQUEST FOR REASONS PROMPTING BORG REPRIEVE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of public disquiet in connection with the reprieve in the Borg case, I put this question very seriously: Does the right hon. gentleman not think it would help toward a public understanding of the reasoning behind reprieves if some kind of statement could be issued giving the background? For example, could we be told whether there was a recommendation from the jury, or whether psychological or psychiatric considerations were involved?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am prepared to raise the matter with the Solicitor General. I thank the hon. member for his question. I think the reasoning might be more apparent if the house were to remind itself that at the time the present law concerning capital punishment was passed there was a clear statement on behalf of the government by the Prime Minister and the Solicitor General then in office that this in no way interfered with the use of the royal prerogative by the cabinet.

It was pointed out that cases in which it might be used were cases where, for instance, the jury recommended clemency, as they did in the instance to which the hon. member has referred.

ELIGIBILITY OF BORG FOR PAROLE

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Have any instructions been given to the National Parole Board concerning Borg's eligibility for parole in approximately ten years time?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question might be placed on the order paper.

DRUGS

MARIJUANA—TRANSFER IN CONTROL METHOD

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister indicate to the house whether he is giving favourable consideration to the resolution passed yesterday by the Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation requesting the federal government to remove regulation of marijuana from the Narcotic Control Act and place it under the Food and Drugs Act?