

Oral Questions

Cowansville, Quebec. Was the inmate suspected of being involved in this murder ever classified as a maximum security risk, and why was he transferred from a maximum security institution in Montreal to the medium security institution at Cowansville.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, these questions are presently under investigation by an administrative inquiry, as I mentioned yesterday in the House when answering a question asked by the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

An hon. Member: Too late, too late.

Mr. Alexander: Oh, shut up.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, may I direct this supplementary question to the Solicitor General: What classification procedures, if any, were followed before this inmate was transferred from the maximum security institution to the medium security institution at Cowansville. Since the Solicitor General has been told time and again that his classification procedures are in disarray, when will he review this matter and act on it?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, the classification procedures have been reviewed and changed on several occasions. As I just told the hon. member, this particular case is being investigated by an administrative inquiry. I shall be willing to report to the House when that inquiry is completed.

* * *

HEALTH**ALCOHOLISM—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON PREVENTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL MEASURES**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the alarming increase in alcoholism and its sequela, which a federal health minister has acknowledged to be a widespread dependence on drugs, and as alcoholism costs us over \$1.5 billion a year and plays a significant part in 50 per cent of all automobile accidents and in suicides and homicides, what steps are being taken, with the provinces, in prevention and education?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. At the last federal-provincial conference of health ministers held in February, 1974, a special work group dealing with alcohol problems was set up to co-ordinate planning and activities in the field of alcoholism with regard to treatment, rehabilitation, counselling and public education. We feel, as ministers, that this represents a major step taken by the two levels of government. I expect a report from this working group as soon as it has arrived at its conclusions. I will be pleased to give further details to the hon. member and his colleagues when my estimates are considered in committee next week.

[Mr. Grafftey.]

Mr. Rynard: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister consider prohibiting the advertising of alcoholic beverages, in conjunction with the provinces.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, this matter is being discussed at present at various levels between the provinces and the federal government. It has been discussed, particularly with representatives of the provinces and of the CRTC, in relation to broadcasting, but I am not aware of the conclusions of these discussions.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST OF UNITED KINGDOM FOR EARLY MEETING OF NATO—POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. As the United Kingdom has called for an urgent summit meeting of NATO in May, because of the concern throughout Europe about the spread of Communism in Portugal, Italy, France, all NATO countries, and the problems faced by Greece and Turkey, two NATO allies, has this matter been discussed with our NATO partner, the United States, and what action will Canada take in response to the request of the U.K.?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, discussed the idea of such a conference with the Secretary of State of the United States, Dr. Kissinger. We are giving consideration to it. Of course, if a meeting were called, and if it were agreeable to others, we would be there. However, the issue is this: is this the right time to call such a meeting. In general, I think this government would believe that a high level meeting on NATO affairs is desirable; but whether the timing of this meeting is the right one is the question before us.

EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE—RELATIONSHIP TO CALL FOR EARLY MEETING OF NATO—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is he, or the Acting Prime Minister, in a position to inform the House of the position Canada would adopt relative to the European Security Conference and does he see any relationship between the call by Britain for a summit meeting of NATO leaders and the European Security Conference.

● (1450)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): There is not the necessary relationship between a NATO summit meeting and a security conference. It is not possible for the security conference to conclude its work and be associated with a NATO summit meeting at the end of May. If the conference were to conclude its work this summer, it is conceivable that a