

Inquiries of the Ministry

in outer space that would add to the fear of mankind. In other words, now is the time for the establishment of the rule of law internationally for the control of outer space for peaceful purposes.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillingate): I should like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. Is the government considering taking any diplomatic initiative in this regard with either of the two powers concerned?

Mr. Diefenbaker: As the hon. gentleman knows, Mr. Speaker, since this proposition was advanced at the United Nations, discussions have been taking place. As he knows, it has been the hope of mankind for a thousand years that nations might agree on the rule of international law applicable to all nations. We have not been able to achieve it in the terrestrial sphere; we hope it can be achieved in the extraterrestrial sphere before it is too late.

Mr. E. W. Brunsdon (Medicine Hat): I wish to ask the Prime Minister a somewhat related question, Mr. Speaker. Having in mind yesterday's epic feat by the United States astronaut, would the Prime Minister give consideration to the sending of an invitation to John Glenn, Jr. and the members of his family to visit Ottawa in order that he may learn at first hand of the warmth of our affection?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am sure that Canadians as a whole would welcome such a visit, Mr. Speaker. I do not think any words that could be added to those that have already been used could reassure him more that he would receive a tremendous welcome here in this country.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**ALLEGED ABUSE OF DIPLOMATIC MAIL PRIVILEGES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I should like to ask of the Postmaster General a question of which I sent him notice. It relates to a protest I received about the use of diplomatic mail by the United States government in order to deliver propaganda to Canadians. My question is general. Can the minister indicate whether there is any abuse of the free diplomatic mail privileges of foreign countries in respect of distributing propaganda in Canada?

Hon. W. M. Hamilton (Postmaster General): Under the terms of an agreement among the countries of North America, South America and Spain, each of us enjoys franking privileges in the other countries and no control whatsoever is exercised over the contents of mail which is handled in that way. I might

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

nor do I think anyone else does so, to papers printed for the use of the committee on foreign affairs of the United States congress passing through our mails.

PENITENTIARIES**DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES RESPECTING CERTAIN PRISONERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gabriel Roberge (Megantic): I wish to direct to the Minister of Justice a question of which I sent notice. I will put my question in French.

(Translation):

Is the Minister of Justice in a position to make a progress report to the house on the negotiations held with the provinces with a view to extending the jurisdiction of the federal government in penitentiary matters concerning inmates under a sentence of one year and over?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for sending me notice of his question.

As I have stated before in the house, the federal government will not be in a position to assume these new responsibilities until a few years from now. Besides, I dealt with that problem in the house last year. The hon. member will find further details if he refers to *Hansard* of June 12, 1961.

(Text):

DRUGS**ALLEGED INCREASE IN COST RESULTING FROM PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare based on an article in this morning's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that the British Columbia medical association is of the opinion that sales promotional activities engaged in by pharmaceutical firms add considerably to the resale cost of certain drugs. If so, would the minister care to comment?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have not seen the article, and would not care to comment on it without perusing it.

SPORTS**ADVISORY COUNCIL—INQUIRY AS TO REQUESTS FOR GRANTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Georges Valade (St. Mary): I have a question I should like to put to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but I will ask it in French.