DRUGS

INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO CONTROL INCREASED NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On October 1 I asked the minister whether he would consider making a statement on motions on the use or misuse of marijuana and related drugs. At that time the minister said he would give this matter very serious consideration. I wonder whether he has given it consideration and can make such a statement forthwith.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, but I will be prepared to make such a statement early next week.

INDUSTRY

CAPE BRETON—NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING EARLY RETIREMENT PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys asked whether negotiations will take place between Devco and the unions concerned before any early retirement program, as recommended in the Donald report, is implemented. There have been constant discussions for some months between the Devco management and the union involving all aspects of the early retirement program.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister stated the day before yesterday that this report must be considered from the viewpoint of both governments, can he assure the house that no enforced early retirement program will be imposed upon these railway workers and coal miners until there has been full discussion and a mutual decision has been reached between the unions and Devco?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think, Mr. Speaker, we are now in the first stages of negotiation. We will have to wait until negotiations have been completed.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I should like to ask the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development a supplementary question, but before doing so may I welcome him back to the house. When will the minister be in a position to table the Devco report?

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in the legislation which compels us to table the Devco report in the house. This is a report which should be brought forward in the cabinet. At the next opportunity I shall discuss this with the members of the cabinet and we shall see then what is to be done with the said report.

[English]

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): May I ask a further supplementary question. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I should like to clear up the impression the minister has that the government is being forced to table this report. This is not the case at all. Since portions of this report are being leaked by the minister's department bit by bit, perhaps he should table the report now. He has just leaked a bit of the report now.

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY RESPECTING ADMINISTRATION OF P.F.R.A.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Crowfoot. The hon. member asked whether the administration of P.F.R.A. comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development or whether the government is dropping the whole project. The answer is yes to the first question, and very definitely no to the second.

SHIPBUILDING

INQUIRY AS TO RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): On Friday last, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for South Shore asked whether it was the intention of the government to submit a report to the house on the conclusions of the recent federal-provincial conference fishing vessel construction materials. I should explain that this conference, which wound up last week in Montreal, was sponsored by the federal and provincial governments in the Atlantic region. The conference was essentially technical in nature and did not prepare recommendations on policy. The complete report of the conference will be published soon. It will be available to all hon. members on request.