

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister undertake to instruct the federal task force which is studying the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women to investigate charges that a woman journalist was barred from a New Democratic Party press conference held yesterday in a sauna bath at Thunder Bay, Ontario?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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DRUGS

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMISSION—
CANADIAN POSITION AT SEPTEMBER MEETING
RESPECTING ILLICIT TRAFFIC

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. When the United Nations International Narcotics Control Commission meets in Europe at the end of September with a view to strengthening the international drugs treaty known as the "Single Convention of 1961", is it the intention of the Canadian government to support the United States authorities, who have been actively seeking Canadian assistance in recent days, in a joint effort to stiffen control and stamp out illicit drug traffic?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my understanding of that particular meeting is that its aim is not to come to any firm conclusions but to have discussions between various nations that might eventually lead to an agreement.

Mr. Southam: I have a supplementary question which is based on the statement made by Dr. Ross Chapman, the special federal adviser who will represent this country at the meetings in Europe in September. In his statement on Friday Mr. Chapman said that the Canadian position had not yet been determined.

Mr. Munro: I do not think there is any inconsistency there with what I have said.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—POSSIBLE
REFERENCE BY CANADA TO UNITED NATIONS OR
INTERNATIONAL COURT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister regarding the massive nuclear test to be held at Amchitka which has still not been cancelled. Can the Prime Minister advise whether, in addition to or instead of going cap in hand to Washington, he or his government is giving consideration to having this very serious matter brought before the United Nations or referred to the International Court of Justice?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the United States has not accepted the jurisdiction of the court. In spite of the ignorance expressed in the ranks of the NDP, I do not think that the United States would in

[Mr. Murphy.]

any way feel bound by a decision which they declare does not bind them.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Prime Minister that the United States is a charter member of the United Nations, and I was asking what he was proposing to do in terms of making representations to that body.

Mr. Trudeau: The answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is that we will be raising this general subject in connection with the debate on the nuclear test ban.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

KILLING OF CHIEF ED BIRD IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
BY MEMBER OF FORCE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Solicitor General. Has he instituted any inquiry under the provisions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act into the killing of the Indian Chief Ed Bird in the Northwest Territories?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House on Tuesday, I think it would be better first of all to study the report of the coroner and, in my view, it is incumbent upon the Minister of Justice, who is Solicitor for the Northwest Territories, to answer this question.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Since the RCMP come under the minister's jurisdiction, and in view of the fact that the provisions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act provide for such an inquiry, is any inquiry under the act being made?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, there is something that prevails over the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, that is the normal process of courts and I believe that before launching an inquiry of any kind, it would be good to examine the report of the coroner who holds the first responsibility for inquiring into the matter.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary which I should like to address to the Minister of Justice. Since the coroner's inquest has been completed and his report is probably now in the hands of the minister's officials, can the minister tell the House whether any inquiry is being conducted into the killing of Chief Ed Bird by a member of the RCMP?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the coroner's inquiry and the jury's verdict in the coroner's inquiry exonerated the officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I am advised by our office in Yellowknife that the transcript of the inquest will be available September 17 or 18. When I have received the transcript I will decide whether any further action should be taken.