

Inquiries of the Ministry

fact that Dr. Kenneth Cox, the medical investigator who did such a brilliant job in connection with confining the typhus epidemic on the *Oronsay*, has been compelled to offer his resignation, will the minister consider referring this matter to the parliamentary committee which has jurisdiction over the establishment of a judicial inquiry under the Inquiries Act?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I question very much the premise in the hon. member's statement that he was forced to resign. The hon. member is correct in that he did resign. I undertook that I would supply answers to the hon. member's questions concerning this whole matter and I hope to do so in the very near future. I would like to learn the hon. member's reaction to those answers and then I will determine what form of action should be taken.

SIDE EFFECTS OF ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES—
AVAILABILITY OF REPORT

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On March 16 the minister promised me he would consider making public the report of the medical committee under the auspices of the Food and Drug Directorate in respect of their study of oral contraceptives. Now that this report is to be circulated to all doctors in Canada, will copies be made available to the public?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to take that matter under consideration.

FINANCE

MERGER OF LA BANQUE POPULAIRE AND
BANQUE PROVINCIALE DU CANADA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Can he tell the House whether he has officially received any applications for approval of a merger between La Banque Populaire and the Banque Provinciale du Canada under the terms of the Bank Act?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Permission was sought and I made an announcement to the House to indicate that under the authority given to me I had approved such a merger.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

NATIONAL REVENUE

ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF GOODS INTO
CANADA AT WINDSOR

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Revenue. It concerns alleged abuses at the Windsor border in connection with the U.S.-Canada car pact and it stems from a statement made by the President of the Customs and Excise Officers Association that dutiable products are being smuggled into Canada camouflaged as auto parts which are duty free. Is the minister aware of this situation and what steps have been taken to eliminate this abuse?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister of National Revenue): To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, these allegations seem false as there may be several check points for such parts coming into the country. None the less, we have set up a committee which is now investigating these allegations and, should they prove to be true, we shall take steps to remedy this situation.

[English]

Mr. Hales: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Apparently this problem arises from the working conditions. I should like to ask the minister whether the working conditions have been changed in any way?

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, a committee has also been established to look into labour conditions at Windsor.

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE

REPORT ON HEALING ARTS—CONSULTATIONS
WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS ON PROBLEMS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the report of the committee on the healing arts just released, which indicates a very grave crisis in respect of medical care involving an acute shortage of doctors and a great need for medical schools as well as complete chaos in respect of health legislation, would the minister get in touch with his counterparts in the provinces to consider ways and means of meeting this grave situation?