

Inquiries of the Ministry

Could the Prime Minister clearly indicate whether the additional funds provided under the local initiatives program may be used for certain projects whose initial rejection was questionable?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Manpower and Immigration replied to a similar question in the negative.

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[English]

HEALTH**NUMBER OF DOCTORS AUTHORIZED TO PRESCRIBE METHADONE**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It relates to the recent announcement that Ottawa is to grant temporary authorization to certain doctors in connection with the use of methadone. Can the minister assure the House that a sufficient number of doctors will be authorized to use methadone in their practices?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): That will certainly be our objective.

Mr. Rynard: When will these temporary authorizations become permanent?

Mr. Munro: When we have had an opportunity to examine the procedure and its validity various observations may be forthcoming, not only from the medical profession but from others, which could indicate areas of possible improvement, and we would then intend to make them permanent.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES**LOCATION OF NEW BRANCH OF ROYAL CANADIAN MINT IN WINNIPEG—INITIATION OF CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the interest taken in Manitoba in the establishment of a branch of the Royal Canadian Mint in that province, can the minister say when it is planned to announce details of the sod-turning ceremony and the location of this establishment?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question should be placed on the order paper. However, if there is urgency and it is a matter of interest to hon. members, the minister might be allowed to reply.

Hon. James A. Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): The plans are proceeding on schedule. I expect to announce next week the location and the names of the consultants.

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the closure of the Rivers and Gimli bases,

[Mr. Matte.]

together with the transfer of Air Canada facilities, cost 3,000 jobs in Manitoba, is it the intention of the government to expand the new mint so as to provide employment for more than the 200 people originally envisaged?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This sounds like argument, at least from the point of view of the Chair.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**OFF-TRACK BETTING—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED FACILITIES**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): I have a question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. A short while ago the minister stated that he and his officials were having discussions with their counterparts in Ontario concerning off-track betting and the possibility of setting up government controlled facilities for such betting. Have these discussions been completed, and can the minister say what action he intends to take?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the discussions involve all the provinces. I believe I indicated on a previous occasion that I did not anticipate immediate legislation, but it will be drafted and brought forward in due course.

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● (1510)

NATURAL RESOURCES**ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY TO INVESTIGATE AND DEVELOP MINING OF SEA-BOTTOM METALLIFEROUS NODULES**

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of Japanese and United States developments in ocean floor mining, is the government encouraging Canadian industry to investigate and develop, if feasible, mining of sea-bottom metalliferous nodules?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think I would have to take that question as notice.

Mr. Ryan: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would have thought that question could have been placed on the order paper. The hon. member has a supplementary and I will judge whether it might also be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, since the minister does not seem to know anything about it, I should like to put the question to the minister in charge of the environment. He was here a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his supplementary.

Mr. Ryan: Since he is not here, I will ask it tomorrow.