

Inquiries of the Ministry

gentleman for the rather belated welcome. I was here yesterday.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a question supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Saint John-Albert. When the Minister of Transport visited Buckingham palace, did he have an interview with Sir Basil Smallpiece with a view to improving the efficiency and organization of house business in Canada?

THE MINISTRY**NATIONAL REVENUE—APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Prime Minister. Instead of dangling the bait of a cabinet post before the voters of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, would it not be in the best interests of Canada to fill the vacancy of the Minister of National Revenue at once with one of the qualified Liberal back benchers?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I am grateful to my hon. friend for his advice.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**VANCOUVER—REPORTED CONTAMINATION OF MILK SUPPLY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): May I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare of which I gave notice in the house two days ago. It has to do with an announcement by the officials of her department regarding the significant level of contamination of milk due to pesticide poisoning in the Vancouver area. I wonder if the minister could give the house a report on whether action is being taken regarding this serious situation.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I noted in *Hansard* that my hon. friend suggested I was convalescing, whereas in fact I have been conducting the business of the department for four or five days. However, I thank my friend for his solicitude.

In reply to the question which he posed to my parliamentary secretary I should like to state that trace amounts of pesticide residues were detected in market milk during a routine survey carried out by the food and drug directorate in dairy products in British

Columbia. The levels found do not represent any immediate hazards to health; therefore there is no justification at the present time for a reduction in the consumption of milk by either adults or children.

However, there is no question but that such residues are undesirable and could represent a potential hazard if milk containing these residues were consumed over long periods of time. Therefore the federal department is working closely with the provincial departments of health and agriculture in order to bring about an improvement in the situation. The regulatory program of the food and drug directorate is continuing, and I also understand that the province is planning to establish a laboratory to examine food products as well as animal feeds for pesticide residues.

I should like to assure the hon. member and the house that if the levels found in milk are considered in any way and at any time to be hazardous or deleterious to humans, immediate action will be taken to have such milk removed from the market.

Mr. Douglas: Before asking a supplementary question may I say I am sure all hon. members are delighted to see the minister back in good health. I understand she had some trouble with her spine but I want to tell her I know there is nothing wrong with her backbone.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the house that that was an allegorical expression and not a personal opinion. May I ask the minister what level of contamination was found and what is the level which is estimated to be dangerous.

Miss LaMarsh: Mr. Speaker, may I say I am sorry that it was not a rather more personal remark that my hon. friend made. Since I am unable to give the statistical information which he now requests I should be happy to see him privately and discuss both matters with him.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**REQUEST FOR SHOWING OF FILM RESPECTING PRIME MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. I understand that the C.B.C.