Oral Questions

PENITENTIARIES

SPRINGHILL—INQUIRY AS TO DRUG SEIZURES AND ACTION TO ELIMINATE USE OF DRUGS IN INSTITUTION

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Solicitor General as well with regard to his comments in respect of drug seizures. I should like to ask if any of the drugs seized were from the Springhill institution and whether the size of seizure of drugs was anywhere near the seizures made a short while ago in that institution? What action has been taken to try to eliminate the use of drugs within the institution?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the searches that were made were searches of a security nature, to look for weapons. During the searches they did find what is mentioned as "a small quantity of drugs" but I do not know the institutions from which those drugs were seized.

SOCIAL SECURITY

CANADA PENSION PLAN—ACTION BY QUEBEC TO REDUCE PENSION—EFFECT ON UNIVERSALITY OF PLAN

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the government be introducing changes to the Canada Pension Plan that will bring it in line with the Quebec pension plan whereby pensioners who earn more than \$1320 per year will have fifty cents deducted for every dollar earned?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The matter is not under review, Mr. Speaker. In any event, any change of that nature would first have to be discussed with the provincial welfare ministers.

[English]

Mr. Ritchie: Mr. Speaker, does this change by the Quebec government now make the plan sufficiently different to be no longer considered identical and hence not portable in the rest of Canada, and does this action negate the principle of universality?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking me to give a legal opinion.

[English]

[Mr. Allmand.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EFFECT OF CIDA BUDGET CUTS ON PROJECTS—GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS TO UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to whom I sent notice. With respect to the announced cut of \$30 million in the CIDA budget, can the minister state what projects and countries are

involved, whether the cuts are in present or future projects, and whether CIDA payments to non-governmental organizations are affected?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for sending notice of his question. There are a number of proposals now before me from CIDA as to how these cuts may be effected. As yet I have not given approval to any of the suggestions, but when I do I shall advise the hon. member.

Mr. Roche: A supplementary question. With respect to the special session of the United Nations on development which opens seven weeks from today, is the government ready to recommend specific measures such as greater international control over stockpiles of grain and other essential commodities and more multilateral programs in order to give leadership in realistic ways to implement a new economic order as called for by the Commonwealth leaders, which is far more important than the \$30 million cut for CIDA?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked a broad question of policy which cannot be answered at the present time. I want to assure the hon. member, however, that at the moment the cabinet is considering the proposals which will be the basis of its stand at the special session.

ENERGY

DATE OF TABLING REPORT OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When will the report of the Interdepartmental Task Force on Energy, Research and Development in Canada which would assist in the development of a public debate about the nuclear safety aspects of energy, be tabled?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the document is now being translated and subject to the production of copies I hope to be able to lay it on the House later this week—perhaps Thursday.

Mr. Hees: How do you "lay it on the House"? This would be the neatest trick of the week.

FINANCE

EFFECT OF GASOLINE TAX ON COST OF FOOD—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent increase in the cost of living last month, a very large part of which is due to the increased price of fuel, and in view of the statement of the president of the Canadian