

Research into Non-Medical Drug Use

a protocol which would be acceptable to a large number of states. It is our view that national governments are in the best position to determine the proper procedure to follow under the particular set of circumstances existing within their territories relating to the abuse of specific drugs.

The Canadian delegation is headed by Dr. Maurice LeClair, Deputy Minister of National Health. Canada's alternate delegates are Dr. R. A. Chapman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Food and Drugs; Dr. Aurèle Beaulnes, Coordinator of the Federal Programs on the Non-Medical Use of Drugs; Mr. J. D. McCarthy, Director, Legal Services of my department and Miss Pauline Sprague, Department of Justice. Officials from the Departments of Secretary of State, External Affairs and National Health and Welfare are, as required, acting as advisers to the delegation.

The delegation has not been empowered to sign the protocol. As I have indicated previously, this House will have a full opportunity to review the agreement before consideration is given to its ratification.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, first may I say that I am pleased to learn that no commitment of an international nature will be made without prior consultation with the House. Consequently, apparently no commitment of an international nature will be made which will limit the kind of program and the kind of laws that we may wish to adopt in this country without prior consultation with parliament.

There is no question, Sir, about the urgent need for research, information, treatment and drug analysis programs. If one questioned in one's mind the urgency of this matter before, surely after reading the interim report of the Le Dain Commission one could hardly entertain such doubts.

I must say that I find it difficult to understand why we had to wait for such a long time for an announcement of such a general nature as the minister made today. In fact, it seems to have been prepared at the last minute because, without meaning to give offence, I got my copy as I was entering the House.

Mr. Munro: I thought the hon. member would like to see it.

Mr. Stanfield: I am grateful for the minister's consideration. Although I have had only a few minutes to consider what the minister has said, it is quite apparent that the program announced by the minister ought to mean a good deal and should be designed with a great sense of urgency in mind. It may mean a good deal or it may mean very little. It is very difficult to judge from the minister's statement. For example, the minister said that some \$4.5 million will be spent in the next fiscal year. Yet there is no indication as to how this amount is to be broken down and how much is to go for any particular purpose. We only know that \$400,000 has been assigned to finance certain innovative programs.

[Mr. Munro.]

Mr. Munro: That is for this year.

Mr. Stanfield: I beg your pardon, that is for this year. Nevertheless there is absolutely no indication as to how the \$4.5 million is to be broken down next year and how much of that amount is to go toward research, toward developing information, toward communication and toward financing innovative programs. Therefore it is a little difficult to understand why it has taken the minister so long to present even this kind of general statement to the House.

In speaking about an information program, the minister is still in the position of having to say that this program will be developed in consultation with provincial health and welfare authorities. Although it is many months since the Le Dain Commission brought down its interim report and many years since the urgency of the problem became apparent, there is no indication that any such program has been developed. I say again that the need is urgent in all these areas.

● (2:30 p.m.)

It is not possible to judge the effectiveness of the minister's proposals on the basis of the information he has given us. I simply say that I hope this announcement represents a determined effort on the part of the government to move ahead in the field of research, information, treatment and drug analysis programs. If it does, I assure the minister that he will receive the full co-operation of myself and my associates as we wish to encourage the government to move forward in a determined way to face this problem in our society which has reached such grave proportions.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the morning newspapers carried a story that the minister would be making a statement today. It is unfortunate that the minister did not make copies of his statement available before the House met so that those who are expected to comment could have given serious study to the matters with which the minister has dealt.

The announcement in the statement is a beginning and we welcome it. However, we are more concerned about what is not in the statement than what is. We are concerned about whether the minister has discussed with the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) the changing of those sections of the Criminal Code that deal with drugs. We are also concerned about whether the minister has discussed with the Solicitor General (Mr. Goyer) the role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP have been carrying on intensive undercover investigations. They have not only encouraged people to use drugs but have encouraged people to give drugs to undercover agents so that these people can be prosecuted for trafficking, not just possession. The RCMP have been acting as agents provocateurs. These matters should have been commented on by the minister but he has not dealt with them.

We are pleased with some parts of the minister's statement. Research into the medical and social effects of the very wide use of drugs is long overdue in this country. If