

for Urban Affairs in his capacity as the minister responsible for the National Capital Commission. Has the National Capital Commission made a contract, or is it considering the making of a contract, with the Pinkerton Agency, a subsidiary of an American firm, for providing the services in the national capital area now provided by the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to make inquiries along that line.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

SUGGESTED CHANGE FROM "DOMINION DAY" TO "CANADA DAY"

Mr. Colin D. Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister.

As we near July 1, would the government consider changing the name of Dominion Day to Canada Day—

[English]

—so that Canadians will have a national holiday, multicultural and bilingual, to symbolize national unity?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member will be pleased to hear that the government intends to introduce shortly a bill concerning civic holidays—in a very few days, I repeat—and I am pleased to see that the applause raised by the question of the hon. member makes us expect that this bill will very quickly be passed by the House.

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[English]

HEALTH

EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA AT REPULSE BAY—NUMBER OF DEATHS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have an urgent question that I have been trying to ask for two days of the Minister of National Health and Welfare concerning an influenza-type disease that has already stricken a third of the population at Repulse Bay and caused two deaths in that community. Would the minister inform the House whether there have been any further deaths as a result of this epidemic and what his department is doing to check the spread of the disease and alleviate the suffering that is apparently going on?

• (1510)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, when we found out about the outbreak—I think it is influenza according to our latest information—we sent three doctors into the area and one nurse. One of them is the director of our epidemiology

Inquiries of the Minister

section. We have done a house to house survey in the area. Not knowing specifically what strain it was, we ordered a special vaccine from Washington. I expect to have a complete report later this afternoon when one of the doctors returns to Ottawa. I hope very much, as I know the hon. member does, that we have the situation under control.

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The minister overlooked informing the House whether there had been any further deaths in addition to the two already reported.

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I am only aware of the two that were reported. I understand that one had a heart condition, which was undoubtedly exacerbated by contracting influenza, and there was the other one to which the hon. member referred. They are the only ones I am aware of.

SUGGESTED SUMMER OPERATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO OFFSET SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS—DISCUSSION OF SHARING OF COST WITH PROVINCES

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the increasing need for general practitioners now acknowledged by the minister himself, has the minister held discussions with the provinces in order to share the necessary financing required to operate medical schools through the summer semester?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is not just a question of more doctors and the expense that is involved in training more doctors. Many recommendations are included in the joint study undertaken by the federal and provincial governments to find solutions, to alleviate the problem. One of the solutions is to develop paramedical personnel who can do just as well a lot of the routine work that doctors do, without the heavy expenditure of public moneys for their training.

Mr. Rynard: I should like to ask the minister if he would refer to the speech he made in Napanee in which he said that we were short of general practitioners.

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): I have a supplementary to the previous question. In view of the high rate of unemployment among general PhDs, I wonder if the minister would consider adopting a program whereby a PhD could convert his degree to an MD?

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FISHERIES

DATE OF MEETING OF MINISTER AND PACIFIC NORTH COAST CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION ON CANNERY PROPOSALS

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I have a question for the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries. Has the minister been able to establish the precise date when he will meet representatives from the Pacific North Coast Co-operative Association in Prince Rupert with respect to the cannery proposals for that area?