

Inquiries of the Ministry

complain about Treasury Board, but it is very difficult to have new buildings built.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell us when the passport service will return to normalcy? Will this be in the near future, so that people applying for passports may be assured they can obtain their passports soon; and if not in two or three weeks, then whether in fact they will be informed it may take two or three months or longer for people to obtain passports.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, within the next few days I intend to embark on an advertising program which I hope will help to clarify the situation. I expect that the peak of passport applications—more passports than anticipated have been applied for—will be over by the middle of June.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, what has the minister to propose with respect to those Canadians who lose financially because of long delays in obtaining passports? Will there be any repayment of fees to persons who cannot obtain requisite service, or who cannot obtain their passports?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The hon. member has asked a question. I do not think he should pursue the matter further.

Some hon. Members: Answer.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, when making a statement I hope to deal with this question, among others.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In his statement would the minister please advise if there will be special provisions to take care of Canadians affected by the Air Canada strike? I am thinking of Canadians who wish to obtain passports, and in particular I have in mind several people who in the next day or two will wish to obtain passports to travel east. Will there be some provisions to enable them to obtain passports in Canada House in England? They might pick them up there, hopefully

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think the complications brought about by the Air Canada strike are greater even than those suggested by the hon. member. But I will look into his suggestion.

[Mr. Sharp.]

SPORTS

AGREEMENTS WITH QUEBEC CONCERNING GRANTS FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Considering the statement made recently by Gabriel Loubier, Minister of Tourism for Quebec, that the federal minister had reneged on certain agreements with Quebec relating to grants having to do with sports and recreation, will the minister state whether any agreements have been reached with Quebec on this subject and whether he in fact reneged on them?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, no, I have not reneged on any agreements. We had several discussions with the Quebec Minister of Tourism and although he made many suggestions relating to Quebec's participation in the amateur sports program, I indicated that we would entertain what was suggested. No commitment has been given. Before the Quebec minister went to the press I endeavoured personally to reach him on several occasions to talk to him about this, but was unable to do so. He was unavailable.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

WOODS REPORT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. It is supplementary to one I asked him two weeks ago today concerning the Woods report and the time of its reference to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs. Can the minister say whether this will be done soon?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer I gave two weeks ago still stands. As soon as the white paper is ready we shall refer it to the appropriate committee.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure us that this will be done in sufficient time to permit this matter to be dealt with during the present session?

Mr. Dubé: Mr. Speaker, it is still my hope that it will be done as quickly as possible. I am afraid that is all I can say at this time.