

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Diefenbaker: If they were living there they would know—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member may ask his question. He has done so. If he has not unanimous consent he cannot comment upon his question. The minister may answer it.

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I think the hon. gentleman will realize that he is not the only one in this house who is interested in seeing that this problem is solved.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Eighty-six days.

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend has said "86 days". He has acted properly in asking the government what it can do or what it proposes to do and what it is doing in co-operation with the provincial government.

Mr. Macdonnell: Is this just an answer or a speech?

Mr. Martin: But I must say that merely to say "86 days" is not contributing to the situation. I explained to the house last Monday that we had indicated to the minister of health of the province of Alberta our desire to continue the co-operative enterprise that we had already engaged in with respect to this particular matter, and with that end in view I had sent a telegram to the minister of health, the responsible authority under our constitution, asking for his reaction to the proposal that we had made.

I may say to my hon. friend that it is not clear at this moment who is responsible for this serious situation.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh!

Mr. Martin: My hon. friend says "Oh!". That is the situation. The minister of health in Alberta has indicated to me that it is not clear at this moment who is the party responsible for the pollution. At one time it was thought that a particular corporation was the party, but the investigations which are now being carried on with the help of technical officers do not reveal at this moment which particular party is responsible for the pollution. The scientists, both federal and provincial, are doing their utmost to come up with an answer to this problem.

I would point out to my hon. friend that there is nothing to prevent anyone, for instance, in the city of Prince Albert from taking whatever legal steps he sees fit. There is no lack of present law to deal with this situation. What is important now is that the co-operative efforts which we are making to ascertain the cause of this thing be allowed to go on unhampered.

I am pleased to communicate to the house at this time the telegram I have received

from the minister of health in Alberta who, as I say, is the responsible officer. The telegram reads:

Thank you for the offer made in your telegram of February 8. Dr. Somerville has been in touch with Dr. Cameron and arrangements are being made for two of your industrial chemists to visit Edmonton in the very near future. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Mr. Campbell: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is there a laboratory in Canada capable of analysing this water?

Mr. Martin: The laboratory in Saskatchewan, as my hon. friend would agree, I am sure, is no mean one, and the laboratory in Alberta, together with our own laboratory facilities here and the facilities in Cincinnati, are all being utilized in the effort to solve this situation.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

CHANGE IN ISSUING OF CIVILIAN PAY CHEQUES AT WINNIPEG STATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Is the minister aware of the fact that on Monday next, February 15, civilian employees on the R.C.A.F. station at Winnipeg will not receive their regular semi-monthly pay cheques? The minister knows that this is owing to a change in pay procedure that has come about suddenly. Is there not some way in which this change can be brought about gradually so that these employees will not have to go a whole month on a half month's pay?

Hon. R. O. Campney (Associate Minister of National Defence): I was not aware of the situation to which the hon. member referred. I shall look into it and ascertain the facts.

IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY AS TO DEPORTATION OF MRS. JESSIE WILSON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. It concerns a story carried in the *Calgary Herald* of February 10, a copy of which I have given the minister. It has to do with the case of an Australian woman, Mrs. Jessie Wilson, mother of an Australian air force veteran now residing in Calgary—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Nickle: I should like to give a brief explanation.