

*Control of Drug LSD*

[English]

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works):** I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if you would consider taking the matter under consideration until another day, so we would not necessarily take up the time of the house in discussing the matter at this moment.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** If any hon. member is ready to comment immediately on whether this amendment is out of order or not, I shall give a ruling now.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, we are willing to accept what the hon. leader of the opposition has suggested, that is, that your ruling be postponed for a day to give you time to take the matter into consideration; we will probably find a solution to the problem of the quorum of the various committees.

**Mr. Speaker:** Unless I am given a better reason for postponing my decision, I am ready to give a ruling now. It seems quite obvious to me that the amendment of the hon. member for Lapointe is out of order because, in my opinion, it covers more than the terms of reference of the committee in question.

That being the case, I do not believe the amendment can be accepted.

Is the house ready for the question?

[English]

Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Knowles:** On division.

**Mr. Grégoire:** On division.

Motion agreed to, on division.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

### STATEMENT ON CONTROL OF DRUG LSD

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the increasing publicity being given to the drug lysergic acid diethylamide, commonly called LSD, I thought it might be appropriate to present a short statement to the house outlining the consideration which is being given to this problem.

The drug in question comes within the category of hallucinogenic drugs which are

[Mr. Speaker.]

being used on an investigational basis in psychiatry. In 1963 the sale and distribution of this drug was prohibited except for small quantities provided by the manufacturer of the drug to institutions approved by the minister for clinical investigation and research.

I would also like to say that there is only one manufacturer of this drug in Canada, and there has been no suggestion that any of the supplies of this drug which have appeared in the illicit underworld market are connected in any way with this company.

It appears that LSD is being smuggled into Canada for illegal sale. In prohibiting the sale of the drug except under the conditions I have mentioned, there was not at that time any thought that the drug would lend itself to illicit trafficking. Developments, however, in recent months have unfortunately shown a growing interest in the drug by persons not under medical care.

The hallucinogenic effects of this drug have received wide publicity, giving the impression that such effects are intensely pleasurable and not in any way harmful to the individual. This is not so. Indeed, this is a highly potent drug, and cases of psychotic breakdown have been reported following its use.

I can assure hon. members that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who are concerned with this problem, are doing their best to eliminate illicit supplies and we have under consideration, in consultation with that force, special measures which will permit more effective control of LSD than is possible under existing legislation.

While I have indicated to members something of our concern over the illicit use of this drug, I would not wish to give any impression that such use is general in Canada, but there is some evidence that it is increasing. It is being used by individuals who choose to experiment with the drug for its special effects without full knowledge of the dangers which could result.

Mr. Speaker, I wished to make this brief statement to the house to indicate that the problem is one which we are actively considering with a view to adopting such measures as will be necessary to deal not only with the illicit traffic in this drug but its illegal possession.

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth):** Mr. Speaker, I should just like to commend the minister for making a statement upon this drug at this time. I recall that some years ago, when I