

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: The minister asks leave of the house to have the two resolutions printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Editor's note: For text of resolutions above referred to, see Appendix.*]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**PRELUDIN—REPORTED HARMFUL EFFECTS ON PREGNANT WOMEN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Walker (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the minister or his department received information that a product known as precludin, of the C. H. Boehringer drug firm of Ingelheim, Germany, which is distributed in Canada, may have an effect dangerous to women in the early stages of pregnancy?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, thus far the only information on this product that we have seen has been a newspaper report. We are checking the report, however, and will make a full investigation into the matter.

Mr. Walker: I have a supplementary question. Will the minister consider taking steps to temporarily freeze the distribution of this drug in Canada until the reports can be either confirmed or denied?

Mr. Monteith: Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness I think we must view this matter in the proper context. My understanding is that there is one British report or a letter or something of this nature. We are endeavouring to trace this, and as soon as possible we will make a study of the situation and report.

AIR TRANSPORT**PRAIRIE PROVINCES—ACTION TO CONTINUE SERVICE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport because of the scheduled end of certain prairie air services on November 30, with the withdrawal of the federal government subsidy. Can the minister say whether any other steps the government may be taking will assure the continuation of this air service beyond November 30?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to repeat what I said earlier, namely that the service will be carried on after November 30.

[Mr. Green.]

Mr. Argue: I have a supplementary question to ask following this welcome announcement. From the minister's answer am I to take it that P.W.A. and N.C.A. services into Regina will be continued beyond November 30?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that.

Mr. Argue: Can the minister say whether it is correct that they will be continued?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, all I said was that this matter has been the subject of a review by the air transport board. The air transport board has reported and we are now considering the best way in which to serve the public needs with regard to air service in the prairie provinces. The air service needs will be met after November 30.

Mr. Argue: I have a further supplementary question to ask, if I may do so.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is now getting to be more of a matter of jumping into a little argument.

Mr. Argue: Mr. Speaker, my question is—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may have questions to ask, all right, but they are not supplementary questions. I think it might be well if he would give some other hon. members the chance to ask questions.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Bonavista-Twillin-gate): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to ask the minister. Has the minister yet been able to ascertain whether the chairman of the air transport board gave a press release about the speech he made some time ago, a matter which the minister was going to investigate?

Mr. Balcer: As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, there was no text of that speech.

Mr. Pickersgill: I asked about a press release.

Mr. Balcer: No press release was issued by the air transport board or by the chairman of the air transport board.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Argue: I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Some time ago in reply to a question of mine the minister said that before November 30 he would make an announcement with regard to the details of air services that would be continued in the prairies beyond November 30. Will the minister make such a statement to the house before the present services are discontinued on November 30?

Mr. Balcer: Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I said earlier.