

Inquiries of the Ministry

is the one that, by regulation, they are called upon to wear. It is at their own request.

Mr. Fraser (Peterborough): Are they lined?

Mr. Speaker: Having gladly obliged an hon. member by answering his question, I would inform hon. members that usually questions are not asked of the Speaker from the floor of the house. If they want to come to see me, I shall be pleased to give them all the information. I thought perhaps I would oblige one hon. member, as I obliged another hon. member earlier, but if there is to be a round of questions I shall be glad to reply to all questions when my estimates are before the house.

PAGE BOYS—REQUEST FOR SHORTER HOURS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Speaker: Following the request that hon. members have made with respect to the consideration we should have for our staff, may I take advantage of this opportunity to point out to hon. members that for the last few days I have been concerned with respect to the page staff. The hours of sitting are long, and that requires long hours of duty by these boys. I would ask the house if they would be prepared to consider putting up with less service in the evenings so that we could organize a system of rotation and split the staff. I am sure our page boys, who always render good service, will appreciate the gesture of the house at this time.

POLIOMYELITIS

SALK VACCINE—ALLEGED CONTRACTION OF DISEASE AFTER VACCINATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. S. White (Hastings-Frontenac): I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister in a position to comment on the correctness of a report in the press that a child in the village of Stirling had contracted polio after being inoculated with Salk vaccine?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am in a position to say that the report of yesterday that a child in the constituency of my hon. friend had contracted polio after having been inoculated three times with Salk vaccine is now followed by a report this morning that the child is up again. Physicians say that the child did not have polio. We are in the fortunate position in this country of having immunizations of close to one million, and not having had one mishap.

[Mr. Speaker.]

SUSPENSION OF IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM DURING SUMMER MONTHS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I should like to ask the minister a question along similar lines. In view of press reports in the *Montreal Gazette* that the Salk vaccine program is to be suspended for July and August, can the minister tell us whether or not children who have received the first shot of vaccine will be able to receive the remaining two shots during July and August? If not, is there any chance that the effect of the first shot will be lost before the remaining shots of vaccine are given? I ask this question as it is my understanding that when a series of shots of vaccine are given to immunize persons against other diseases, they have to be given during a definite period of time.

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): My hon. friend will understand that I proceed entirely on the scientific opinion of those who are trained in this field. All those who have been immunized this year have received at least two shots. The provinces, in collaboration with the federal government, have decided that in view of the uncertainty that exists as to the desirability of vaccinations during the summer months it would be prudent not to proceed with the program during July and August. This is not really a new decision. This is a decision that was arrived at almost a year ago. There is no suspension of the program. The program is being carried out in accordance with an arrangement we made a year ago.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INCREASED PAYMENTS BY MUNICIPALITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): On Monday, I asked the then acting prime minister if he would take note of a question which I had intended to ask of the Minister of Justice regarding reconsideration of the request of municipalities in British Columbia for increased payments under the Royal Canadian Mounted Police contract. I would ask the Minister of Justice if he has any comment to make upon whether favourable consideration will be given of that request?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): The question which my hon. friend asked on Monday last was this:

I wanted to know whether the minister had received from various municipalities in British Columbia, including the city of Kamloops, a request