

Inquiries of the Ministry
HEALTH AND WELFARE

**INSULIN—REQUEST FOR PROTECTION OF
 USERS FOLLOWING PRICE INCREASE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare arising out of a question I asked last week in his absence, concerning the increase in the price of insulin and the maintenance of provincial support programs. Can the minister inform the house and the country whether the government is prepared to do anything to assist those users of this drug in meeting this additional burden?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have read the hon. gentleman's question. There is now a question on the order paper in respect of insulin. It should be kept in mind that the price increase by Connaught Laboratories is the first increase by that agency in the price of insulin since its discovery in 1921. The price today is lower than it was in 1938. The director of the laboratories has stated that the price has been kept as low as possible, and that this increase is the result only of additional costs.

At the present time there is no direct federal government support for insulin users, except through sharing in the Canada Assistance Plan. I understand that two provinces do assist insulin users where necessary.

Mr. Winkler: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was aware of the information just given by the minister, and I have no quarrel with that statement by the director. I simply wish to ask the minister whether the federal government is prepared to offer some support where this increase in price has placed a heavy burden upon users.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the federal government is assisting the provinces of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia in respect of insulin users through national health grants. Presumably the same method of support would be available to other provinces. I would be glad to explore this point further.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

**EXTENSION OF AMNESTY OR PAROLE
 DURING CENTENNIAL YEAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the [Mr. Benson.]

Solicitor General. Is the minister able to inform the house what progress has been made with respect to the suggestion that special consideration should be given to amnesty or parole of those persons who warrant a gesture of mercy during our centennial year?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, may I say to the hon. member with respect that I gave a written reply to a similar question approximately six weeks ago. The gist of the reply, as I recall it, was that the setting up of the National Parole Board provided for an automatic review of the sentences of all inmates of federal institutions, and consideration was not being given to granting a general amnesty this year.

PENITENTIARIES

**REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF MAXIMUM
 SECURITY FACILITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the Solicitor General. It is one that surely needs an answer now in view of the imminence of calling for tenders. Could I ask the Solicitor General whether consideration has been given to the report of the joint committee of the House of Commons and Senate on the design of maximum security prisons, and will the recommendations of the joint committee be included in revised plans for the construction of the new maximum security prison at Millhaven as part of the Kingston complex?

Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the report of the committee is being studied by the officials of my department at the present time.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Will no call be made for tenders for the maximum security prison at Millhaven before the report of the joint committee has been fully considered?

Mr. Pennell: I am prepared to give that undertaking, Mr. Speaker. We will look at this report very seriously and will consult the architects to see what revisions are necessary in light of the report of the committee.

PRIVILEGE

**MR. CHURCHILL—MOTION ON ORDER PAPER
 BY MEMBER FOR LOTBINIÈRE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a ques-