

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

in British Columbia has been charged with violation of trust as a public officer and with theft of over \$50, will the minister undertake to inquire into the ramifications which may flow from the laying of those charges?

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** I am not familiar with the case and of course it would not be appropriate for me to make any comment at this time. I will discuss it with my colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development after the trial in order to ascertain if there are any related matters that require attention.

**CRIMINAL CODE****REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax):** My question is for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker, and was raised originally in the house on February 8. Has the minister decided whether all or part of the omnibus bill amending the Criminal Code will be referred to a committee so the public will know whether or not to prepare representations?

[Translation]

**Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the decisions which we are making in that respect are continuously adjusted, on account of the chronology of events, of course. We do not know as yet when this bill might come before the house. If it is not introduced during this session or this parliament, it will be introduced during another one. For that reason, the time when this bill will be studied remains to be determined.

[English]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON EFFORTS TO CONTROL DRUG TRAFFIC**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer):** I direct my question to the Solicitor General. In view of the increasing number of reports regarding the serious effects on young people of the use of illicit drugs; the growing evidence of increasing traffic in drugs; also in view of the recent recommendations of the Canadian Medical Association relating to the dangers of such illicit drugs which require legal and social restrictions against their distribution—

[Mr. Howard.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member kindly ask his question?

**Mr. Thompson:** I am coming to that, sir. Would the Solicitor General inform the house whether his department is considering any specific action for more effective control of this dangerous situation, including control over the dissemination of material and television programs which encourage the use of drugs?

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** The R.C.M.P. is making a forceful effort to deal with the problem. The scope of the problem is revealed by the increase in the number of prosecutions for drug offences from 943 in 1966-67 to 1,915 in the first 11 months of 1967-68. As recently as last week the deputy commissioner of R.C.M.P. operations met with officials of the bureau of narcotics in Washington as part of a continuing consultation. A few weeks ago the commissioner convened a special meeting of all assistant commissioners heading the eight divisions across Canada for the purpose of discussing, among other things, matters relating to drug trafficking. Of course the R.C.M.P. is in touch with every agency on the continent—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the minister that perhaps this statement is a bit long.

**FINANCE****POSSIBLE PENALTY ON WITHDRAWAL OF MONETARY FUND CREDIT**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question with relation to the recent drawing by Canada of our credit in the International Monetary Fund, amounting to \$241 million. Would the minister tell the house whether any transfer tax or penalty was payable by Canada in connection with that drawing?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I wonder whether the hon. member would not consider that this is the type of question that might be asked in a few minutes when the house considers the estimates of the Department of Finance.

**Mr. Fulton:** With respect, Mr. Speaker, I was asking the question now so we might have the matter as background to the minister's statement.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would have to take this question as notice, but I shall have my officials