Inquiries of the Ministry

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, Mr. Speaker. Having regard to the concern felt in the Atlantic provinces, is it the intention of the government to appoint a chairman, a vice chairman and two directors to fill the present vacancies on the Atlantic Development Board?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, there will probably be a delay before the members of the Atlantic Development Board are appointed because the structure of the board might be changed when the basic act of the department is examined.

[English]

DRUGS

IMPOSITION OF CONTROLS ON AMPHETAMINE TYPE STIMULANTS

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. For what reason did Canada refuse to support the efforts of students to impose strict controls in respect of the United Nations narcotics commission on amphetamine type stimulants?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for information which should be given on motions in the form of a statement.

MEDICAL CARE ACT

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE OPTOMETRY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare? In view of the fact that the Medical Care Act was amended in order that special services could be included under its provisions at the request of the provinces, and in view of the fact that five or six provinces have requested that optometry be included, will the minister be making an early statement with regard to the government's intentions in this regard?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am not aware that the degree of consensus with reference to this matter is as the hon. member has stated, but I would be pleased to look into it and consider the requests.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the amendment to the act said nothing about consensus, is it not possible for the government to give consideration directly to the requests which have been made?

Mr. Munro: That may be legally possible, but we have decided to proceed in connection with this legislation, through co-operation and consultation with the provinces. As a result of conferences between federal and provincial health ministers a formula for this consultation has been devised, and it has been agreed there should be at least some type of consensus reached before additional services would be provided under the act. This is the procedure we are following at the present time.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the minister check to see if my information is not correct—that five or six provinces have made such a request?

Mr. Munro: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE

DAIRY INDUSTRY—QUOTAS FOR WHOLE MILK AND CREAM

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Is consideration being given to the allotment of dairy quotas to people who are interested in entering the whole milk or cream field, having regard to the fact that the present dairy policy is now under review?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I announced in Quebec city to the conference of the dairy farmers of Canada held last Wednesday that we would entertain applications from producers who had a quota covering between 420 and 1,750 pounds of butter fat and who continued to produce, but who failed to re-apply for the current dairy year. The question of additional applications is under consideration, but no announcement has been made.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CHARGES IN REPORT RESPECTING GROCERY PRICES ON PRAIRIES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can he indicate to the house when he plans to meet with the ministers of the three prairie provinces to discuss further the charges set out in the Batten