

Inquiries of the Ministry

as the government does. I judge that would be very soon indeed, judging from the attitude of the opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Munro: The government certainly has had very little time indeed to study the report.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

MARIJUANA—INSTRUCTIONS TO CROWN PROSECUTORS RESPECTING CHARGES IN LIGHT OF LE DAIN COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): I wish to direct my supplementary question to a minister who will give an answer we can understand, namely, the Solicitor General.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: In view of the minister's knowledge of what is in the LeDain Commission report, are special instructions being given to those Crown prosecutors who look after prosecutions under the federal jurisdiction with regard to young men and women involved in marijuana charges, in light of the recommendations of the LeDain Commission and in light of the bill the Minister of Justice has introduced with regard to bail, because many of these young people will remain in jail over the holidays?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): I am sure the hon. member does not want me to give him indirectly the contents of the LeDain Commission report in answer to a question phrased in that manner.

Mr. Woolliams: I guess the Solicitor General has fallen into the same habit as the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Possibly I can make my question a little clearer. Will the Solicitor General issue special instructions to the Crown prosecutors who receive their instructions from his office on charges involving marijuana, particularly with reference to those people who cannot raise the money for bail?

Mr. McIlraith: I find it a little difficult to answer the hon. member's question. He is suggesting that I give instructions to Crown prosecutors in some way, by inference, contrary to the law. First, the Solicitor General does not give instructions to Crown prosecutors at any time. Second, even if I were the minister with authority to instruct them I

would not give instructions that are, if I am correct in the inference I have drawn, contrary to the law.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary. Can the minister explain why some of the special Crown prosecutors in Calgary allege to defence counsel that they get that kind of instruction?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROVINCIAL ASSURANCES OF ACTION TO CURB INFLATION—IMPOSITION OF CONTROLS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Labour on Saturday to the effect that the provincial premiers have apparently given assurances that they will take whatever steps are necessary to curb inflation, including rent control, will the Acting Prime Minister say whether assurances have been received from all provincial premiers that this will be done?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The hon. member's question is based on a very truncated version of what the Minister of Labour said. I obtained a transcript of what he said on the air and it was not as alleged by the hon. member. He said: "I presume—I wasn't there; I don't know what Dr. Young discussed but I am sure he came away satisfied." He made it quite clear that he was not there, that he was just talking from a presumption, and he did not know.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): May I ask the Acting Prime Minister, who is undoubtedly in communication with Dr. Young, whether all the premiers said that they might take such steps and, if so, when might this take place?

Mr. Sharp: I would have to take the question as notice and ask Dr. Young or someone who was there. I was not there myself.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Can the hon. gentleman say whether it is now government policy to press for rent controls and other controls on a nationwide basis as part of its war against inflation?

Mr. Sharp: I am sure it is the view of all members of this House that if a prices and incomes policy is to be put into effect successfully there must be restraint in all directions.