

Committees of the House
AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

DRUGS

CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT BY MINISTER
OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Hon. J. C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in the House on Friday I stated that the government would consider moving the drug marijuana from the Narcotic Control Act to the Food and Drugs Act. Outside the House I stated that the government was committed to this course. I got carried away and went too far. The entire government, including myself, was in support of the statement that I gave in the House. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) was quite correct in reiterating that the position of the government which was that they would consider such a move. To the House, to the press to whom I made the comments and to the people, I regret this course of action on my part.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Second report of Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs in English and in French—Mr. Francis.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

There are some difficulties with the simultaneous translation system. I think that the translators are not here yet.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: In view of the difficulty referred to by the hon. member, it might be as well if the House were to wait for a moment or two before proceeding.

[Translation]

Due to the difficulties to which the hon. member has just referred, it would perhaps be advisable if hon. members agreed to wait a few moments before carrying on with the proceedings.

inviting all people in this country regardless of nationality to apply for Canadian citizenship and by so doing to obtain the right to vote and to help govern this country. Such people can then say, "This may be the country of my adoption but I now have the right to vote and to help in the choosing of the government, and I am a Canadian citizen".

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Chairman, may I make one or two comments. May I assure the hon. member who has just sat down that, while I support his view, if he had taken five minutes to read the bill we are considering he would not have been led astray, as I submit he has been, about the contents of the bill, because it says what the hon. member has been expounding.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Forrestall: Has somebody else on the government side not bothered to read the bill?

Mr. Nowlan: That is right. That is not unusual.

Mr. Forrestall: If others had bothered to come to some of the committee hearings and to take five minutes in which to read the bill, instead of merely talking about their own points of view, they would understand what the provisions of Bill C-215 contain.

Before calling it one o'clock may I say that I think it is regrettable that certain ministers of the government have not taken this opportunity of coming forward and making known their views through a precise statement. I regret that the Minister without Portfolio for York-Scarborough, whose absence from the chamber I regret, has not bothered to come forward and spell out for members of the committee and for all Canadians what his own views with regard to citizenship are. Shortly after assuming the responsibilities entrusted to him he told us that he had very definite views about citizenship. May I call it one o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

Progress reported.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): At two o'clock the House will revert to routine proceedings pursuant to the special order made on Thursday, June 18, 1970. It being one o'clock I do now leave the Chair.

At one o'clock the House took recess.