

Inquiries of the Ministry

answer to a question I put to him, the minister stated that the government had no jurisdiction to interfere with the move of United Air Lines in closing their Vancouver office because it was a matter of internal management. I am advised that Canadian Pacific Air Lines have applied for a licence to permit them to serve the west coast of the United States. My question is, has the minister received any representations from the Vancouver board of trade or other bodies on the west coast supporting the application of Canadian Pacific Air Lines to operate in competition with United Air Lines in that area?

Hon. Leon Balcer (Minister of Transport): I shall have to check that with my office, but I can assure my hon. friend right away that the government is making representations to the United States government to amend the bilateral agreement between our two countries to provide more routes for Canadian carriers from Canada to the United States and back.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**RALPH COCHRANE—EXAMINATION BY PRISON PSYCHIATRIST**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice, notice of which I gave him this morning. Has Mr. Cochrane, a prisoner in solitary confinement in Kingston penitentiary for the past 13 months, been examined by the prison psychiatrist? When was the last examination held?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think if we are going to have a series of questions of this nature it would be advantageous to have such questions on the order paper. If the hon. member has a single question I will permit it.

Mr. Orlikow: I would ask one question, then. Has the prison psychiatrist made a report to the warden or the Department of Justice on the possible effects on Mr. Cochrane of this long confinement?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, first I must caution the house against giving their normal meaning to such words as the hon. member has used "solitary confinement for 13 months". So far as this particular inmate is concerned, he has been examined by the psychiatrist and has been found to be in good mental and physical health.

[Mr. Nicholson.]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ON RELATION OF DRUGS TO BIRTH ABNORMALITIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the minister giving consideration to the suggestion of a drug firm that a committee of experts be set up to study cases where drugs may be involved in congenital abnormalities?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, while I was interested to read the suggestions of the drug company in this field, I think the establishment of a separate committee to evaluate reports of drug deformities would be duplication of effort at this stage. There are a number of professional groups conducting surveys most vigorously, particularly with regard to the thalidomide problem. The expert committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, which has been looking into the operations of the food and drug directorate, is just preparing its final report, and I hope to have it shortly.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS ACT**AMENDMENTS TO CONFORM TO TAX-SHARING ACT AND INCREASE PAYMENT**

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-101, to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act and the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act.

(Translation):

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few comments on the motion for the third reading of the bill concerning the federal-provincial fiscal arrangements.

First of all, I must say that the problem of federal-provincial fiscal arrangements is one which has a particular interest for us. It is an apparent fact that, for some time, new strides towards progress are being made in the province of Quebec. However, such in advance may be hampered by a lack of the income and financial means required.

We are discussing today fiscal arrangements related to the field of education. For some time, that is, for the past three or four weeks, there has been a lot of talk about the educational system of the province of Quebec. Some find it adequate; others say there is much room for improvement. On that point, Mr. Speaker, I should like