

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DRUGS**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL—EFFECT OF
CANADIAN COMMITMENTS ON LE DAIN
COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): My question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Now that the minister is back in the House after meeting his provincial colleagues, does he intend to make a statement concerning the commitments the government could enter into in regard to the Geneva protocol on psychotropic drugs and the effect of these commitments on the recommendations of the Le Dain Commission?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I do not think a long statement is necessary. I can assure the hon. member that I do not believe it is the intention of the government to make any commitments of a binding nature until it receives the final report of the Le Dain Commission.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Is the minister now in a position to advise the House on the nature of the answer relayed to the directors of the provincial anti-addiction programs who have urged the government not to proceed to enter into any international drug agreement prior to the completion of the Le Dain report.

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I would hope my previous answer would answer the hon. member also.

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he can assure the House that no commitments will be made at Geneva until he comes back to the House and such agreements are fully ratified by Parliament?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my previous answer would give the House and the hon. member that assurance.

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PENITENTIARIESTRANSFER OF CERTAIN INMATES FROM PRINCE ALBERT
AND STONY MOUNTAIN TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who I believe is Acting Solicitor General. I should like to know whether 20 or 25 or approximately that number of inmates of the Saskatchewan penitentiary have been moved to the penitentiary in British Columbia, plus a number of those who have been labelled as malcontents and the like from Stony Mountain penitentiary in Manitoba?

Hon. John N. Turner (Acting Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the question as notice.

[Mr. Speaker.]

PRINCE ALBERT—INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS
BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the President of the Privy Council. Has the minister taken under consideration the request made in the House last week that the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee arrange to visit Prince Albert penitentiary, and is the minister in a position to report now?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have had conversations with the Solicitor General with respect to a reference to the committee. I am not exactly certain what the effect of the reference will be, but it certainly will be in accordance with the general wish to continue the examination commenced last session.

Mr. Burton: Can the minister give any indication of the timing of any such visit to the Prince Albert penitentiary?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker. I cannot anticipate what the terms of reference will be. When the terms are placed on the order paper, we shall be in a better position to say.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSIONCLOSING OF RIVERS AIR BASE—MEETING OF MINISTER
WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. On October 20 the minister was to meet with the officials of Rivers Air Base and Brandon. However, the trip was postponed due to the Quebec crisis. Because of the uncertain economic situation in western Manitoba, can the minister advise the House when he will visit Manitoba and when these meetings will take place?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we intend to visit both bases as soon as the policy applicable to those who will be discharged has been fully developed.

[English]

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Following the recent representations to the minister by a representative group from the province of Manitoba, led by the Premier of that province, with respect to widening the designated area, will the minister, when he visits the Rivers and Brandon communities, be making an announcement based on those representations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Yukon.