

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS FROM U.S.
ARMED FORCES—TABLING OF REPORT
ON INVESTIGATION**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): My question is for the Solicitor General. Has the government completed its investigation with respect to complaints made against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police concerning the alleged handing over of three United States deserters to the American authorities? If so, can the minister indicate to the House in general terms the result of that investigation?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, a commissioner was appointed pursuant to the Inquiries Act by the three departments directly concerned, the Department of the Solicitor General, the Department of Manpower and Immigration and the customs department. The commissioner presented a report on Friday. I hope to consult with my colleagues who participated in the appointment regarding this report. The report will be translated and copies made available to the House.

Mr. Nesbitt: In view of the fact there is considerable interest in this matter, can the minister indicate when the report might be tabled? The second part of my original question was whether the minister could give the House an idea as to the result of the investigation?

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be fair to reveal any of the contents of the investigation until the report is tabled in the House. One of the difficulties is that each minister has only one copy of the report. Additional copies will have to be made and the report translated before it can be tabled in the House. I hope that can be done very quickly.

DRUGS**AVAILABILITY OF INTERIM REPORT OF
LE DAIN COMMISSION TO OPPOSITION
PARTIES ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is prompted in part by the commitment on Friday morning by the Prime Minister to table the interim report of the LeDain Commission and also the Prime Minister's statement that he hoped the opposition parties will be in a position to make a declaration of their position on the interim report

[Mr. Munro.]

as quickly as the government. In light of that, is the minister prepared, in the period until the report is tabled, to make the interim report available on a confidential basis to the opposition parties so that we will have the same amount of time to examine the report?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think the government's position with respect to the LeDain Commission report is well known. As stated by the Prime Minister and earlier by myself, the decision as to when the document will be made public, if indeed it is to be made public will be made by cabinet as soon as possible.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Trudeau said it would. You are starting to weasel already.

Mr. Munro: I am not starting to weasel. I am indicating that as of this moment the government has not made a decision to table the report. I estimate that the matter will be taken under consideration this week. With regard to the cabinet's decision I am referring more to the timing of the tabling of the report. I believe the Prime Minister indicated it would quite probably be made public.

An hon. Member: Be made public?

Mr. Munro: I think the preoccupation of the opposition is that it be made public as soon as possible. That type of decision has not yet been officially made.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A supplementary question. Is the Minister of National Health and Welfare aware of what the Prime Minister said on Friday, namely, "I can give the House the assurance that the report will be tabled?"

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): We are aware of everything that the minister has said and I again ask whether he is prepared to make the report available to the opposition parties on a confidential basis so that the opposition parties will have a similar amount of time to examine the report and make their positions known at the time the report is tabled?

Mr. Munro: I think it is fair to say that when the Prime Minister made that statement he hoped and expected that the opposition would take a position on the paper as quickly