

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Nowlan: On the minister's question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I have to rule that there is no question of privilege. This is a debate on what was said and what was not said. It cannot be raised as a question of privilege.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am not sure whether the minister was referring to me, but I did ask him a question about his speech last night. Let us be quiet and get this clarified for the record. The minister stood in his place and said he did not say what I heard him say with my own ears in his own voice. I would like to clarify this question of privilege. Is the minister prepared to stand in the House today and deny that there was a recording of his voice saying among other things that the LeDain report would be tabled or made public some time this summer? Does he deny that I heard that?

Mr. Munro: Yes, I deny that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

An hon. Member: You are not telling the truth.

Mr. Fairweather: Whose voice was it?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The tape was checked—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has stated his point. He rose on a question of privilege. Other hon. members spoke on the previous point of order and on the question of privilege. I would think that nothing will be gained by pursuing this further and using the full 40 minutes for raising points of order and questions of privilege on the same point. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Fairweather: We are dealing with a man who cannot tell the truth.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The truth has to come out.

CANADA PENSION PLAN**PAYMENT OF BENEFITS TO SURVIVORS OF DECEASED CONTRIBUTORS LACKING SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare which, I wish to assure you, Mr. Speaker, is

[Mr. Speaker.]

on another subject. On May 25 I asked him a question concerning a number of survivors who were unable to collect their benefits under the Canada Pension Plan because the deceased contributors, in most cases self employed persons, had failed to obtain a social insurance number. The minister assured me the matter would be looked into, and he was hopeful it would be corrected. I wonder if he can now indicate that this has been done?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has been done.

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF GABON**

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to the attention of the House the presence in the galleries of Mr. Okinda, Gabon's Minister of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister, now that we are reaching the end of the session, give us a report on how the negotiations are going with the People's Republic of China with a view to exchanging diplomatic missions?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): So far as I know they are continuing. We are waiting for the Chinese representative to make another appointment with our ambassador in Stockholm. We expect that the appointment will be made in due course. I am afraid there is very little I can do about it. As I have said on many occasions, the Chinese are very patient and I think we have to be the same way.

Mr. Nesbitt: The mysterious East, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the exchange that he has indicated is likely to take place soon indicates that Canada will be withdrawing recognition from Taiwan?