

Inquiries of the Ministry

by taking the men alphabetically or one at a time?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think it would have been preferable in the circumstances if some arrangement had been made to take the applications at different periods, but the office, acting in good faith, opened on Saturday and advertised that the staff would be available from nine o'clock to two o'clock in the afternoon. Apparently many miners had not listened to the radio and arrived very early in the morning, which is a rather characteristic habit of the miners of this country.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING USE OF
DRUG LAETRILE**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency asked both the Prime Minister and myself about representations made by a radio commentator in Edmonton concerning the drug laetrile. I replied that I did not know about any such representations.

I am sorry to find that I have misled the hon. member. Mr. Phil Floyd of radio station CJCA in Edmonton did write the Prime Minister about laetrile last December, and because of the intervening three months the matter had passed from both our memories.

That letter was referred to my office for answer. We informed Mr. Floyd that because of experience with the manufacturer and because of medical and scientific evidence it was considered in the interests of public welfare to apply the sanction of the law to the distribution of laetrile until supporting experimental evidence was obtained to indicate whether the drug could possibly possess some measure of effectiveness for the purpose for which it was recommended. The action taken was wholly within the intent of the Food and Drugs Act and its regulations.

I must apologize again. If my hon. friend had sent notice it would have been possible, of course, to search the correspondence, but over a period of three months it is virtually impossible to remember an individual letter. I hope the hon. member will accept my apology.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**LUCIEN RIVARD—REWARD FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO RECAPTURE**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question

20220—760½

to the Minister of Justice and ask him whether the R.C.M.P. are participating in the search for the elusive Mr. Rivard. I raise this question in view of the fact that the mounted police always get their man. Also, in view of the fact that the custody of Rivard was naturally the concern of the federal government, I ask him whether the government has yet made any decision to offer a reward for the return of this gentleman.

[Translation]

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I must say that it is my duty to point out that from the Leader of the Opposition any ironical remark concerning the R.C.M.P. whose work and achievements I respect—

Mr. Lambert: You did not defend it against Mr. Grégoire.

Mr. Favreau: I defend it in important matters.

Mr. Speaker, I must state that I had a conversation with the attorney general of the province of Quebec concerning the suggestion which was made of offering a reward to whomever would cause the police or the authorities to arrest Rivard.

Yesterday, in the Quebec legislature, the attorney general replied that he had not decided, for the time being, to offer such a reward, and for a reason with which I agree: that is, the co-ordination which exists between the various police forces in Canada, including evidently the R.C.M.P., should normally bring about the arrest of Rivard.

However, should there be an unusual delay between the date of escape and that upon which that arrest should have been normally effected, we are both ready to reconsider that decision.

[Text]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The minister made the suggestion that I had ironically referred to the mounted police. That statement—

Some hon. Members: You did.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That statement is an unqualified falsehood. I have been shocked at the conduct of the Minister of Justice in recent weeks—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am now on a question of privilege.