

Oral Questions

officials and mayors around the country that they would like to have some of the funds returned for expenses. I think that is a valid point, and I intend to look into it.

As to whether or not we would go so far as to look into drug programs, I am not sure we are at that point, but we are looking at the possibility of returning funds spent on investigations to the various jurisdictions.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): I would like to thank the Solicitor General for his reply and ask him what additional measures he envisages in the fight against illicit drugs so as to bring to an end this very disturbing and growing pattern across the nation.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, the Prime Minister has been taking a lead on this issue.

Yesterday in Montreal he made reference to the improved co-operation among the various authorities we have, the RCMP, National Defence, the Coast Guard, and customs, in the effort to crack down on this very serious problem. I would also point out to my friend that the national drug strategy which the Prime Minister initiated is a five-year preoccupation. It expires in 1992 and is currently being reviewed to see what improvements we can make to it.

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PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, part of the proposed constitutional changes tabled this morning by our Prime Minister dealt with restoring Canadians' right to own private property.

My question is for the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs. If enshrined in the Constitution, exactly what impact would this right have on the lives of individual Canadians on main street in my riding?

• (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is early to answer that question. The matter will have to be looked at in the committee. There will be legal drafts brought forward at the committee stage. I think that various implications, including for

some provinces and including for women who have concerns about the property right and other matters, would have to be taken into account.

We in proposing this are confident that we can find legal language which will take account of those concerns and allow us to place in the charter the right to property in a way that will be effective on main street.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs is about the social charter idea.

In the proposal tabled in the House this morning there is nothing on a social charter. I wonder if the minister can explain to the House precisely why he failed to propose in the paper this morning the willingness to put in the Constitution of Canada a guarantee for medical care, education, clean environment, housing and a job for ordinary Canadians when these have become in a modern society pretty fundamental rights of citizenship.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member would want to look at the specific references in the Canada clause. He would also want to consult members of his own party, the party leader in British Columbia Mr. Harcourt, being one of them who has expressed concerns about handing over to the courts the very substantial power that would be involved in a social charter.

I have no doubt that that matter, as others that are divisive in various parties, will be discussed within the NDP and that when the hon. member takes his usual active and constructive role in the committee he will have some proposals to put forward.

If we think something workable is put forward, we are certainly prepared to look at it, although I would not want that answer to be interpreted as suggesting that we are looking to the inclusion of a charter of the kind that was proposed by the premier of Ontario. If there is something in that line that can be made acceptable, I am sure the committee will be prepared to consider it.