

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: As the leader of the government today I should like to read the police report before giving an answer. The government would not want in any way to hamper any inquiries into this terrible tragedy.

HAY LAKES RESERVE—INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS
EPIDEMIC

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister inform the House of the steps his department has taken to stamp out the epidemic of infectious hepatitis which has broken out on the Hay Lakes Indian Reserve?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware, personally, of this particular epidemic. I shall have to check with the officials of my department to find out what action has been taken, and I shall be pleased to get in touch with the hon. member.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Is the minister aware that he would have that information on hand if there were a flying doctor service in the north?

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REGIONALLY DIFFERENTIATED MINIMUM
WAGE

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the recent statement by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, is the minister considering the feasibility of a regionally differentiated federal minimum wage? I think I know what the minister's reply will be, but there are many people across the country interested in the matter who would like to have it on the record.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I do not particularly endorse the idea of regional disparity. I think we should all strive for parity and equality right across the country.

[Later:]

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I ask the Minister of Labour whether he would at the first opportunity make it known to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association that neither he nor the government believe in a

[Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

differential in the minimum wage for different regions of Canada?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Minister of Labour exchange viewpoints, sometimes similar, sometimes at variance at various times during the year.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN
RESPECT OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. In view of the minister's interest in equality, and in light of a statement made by Miss Sylvia Gelber that women graduates are being denied the opportunity of competing, even on their own university campuses, for two-thirds of the jobs for which graduates are recruited, is the minister or his department co-operating with provincial human rights commissions in investigating this rank discrimination? If so, would the minister be prepared to make a statement in this regard as soon as possible?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Hamilton West, with his usual courtesy, gave me prior notice of his question. He may have forgotten to mention that Miss Gelber is head of the women's branch of the Department of Labour and has been concerned with this problem, in conjunction with her provincial counterparts, for some time. I instructed her, in my capacity as Minister of Labour, to make a complete survey of existing legislation, which I think is imperfect, relating to this matter. Based on her report and recommendations, we hope we will be able to produce more suitable legislation to eliminate discrimination against women in the work force of Canada.

Mr. Alexander: I have a further supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did invite hon. members a moment ago to limit their supplementaries, but perhaps I might allow the hon. member for Hamilton West a further supplementary.

Mr. Alexander: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to receive the reply of the minister, but I am wondering whether he could give the House any indication of when we could expect either a white paper on this matter or the proposed legislation?