

ELECTIONS

INQUIRY AS TO PREPARATION OF LIST OF CANDIDATES AND ENUMERATORS

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Has he instructed the Chief Electoral Officer to ask the returning officers of the constituencies to submit lists of potential candidates and particularly to submit lists of enumerators for those who have urban districts in their ridings?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State—I am acting for him—I take notice of the question of the hon. member and convey it to the Secretary of State.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED INVESTIGATION BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE INTO ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN NEWSPAPER REPORTERS—PROTECTION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of the fact six individuals involved in the media in the province of Alberta have supposedly been under investigation by the RCMP, can the minister now inform the House if in fact this is taking place and how this information gained the attention of a newspaper in Alberta? What action does the minister intend to take to protect the rights of these individuals?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned the other day, we do not confirm nor deny when investigations are undertaken by the police. However, I am continuing to investigate the story which appeared in the Calgary paper and I will report to the House as soon as I have that information.

ALLEGED INVESTIGATION BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE OF CERTAIN NEWSPAPER REPORTERS ATTEMPTING TO FORM UNION—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): My supplementary is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact the individuals involved in this investigation by the RCMP were attempting to organize a trade union within the newspaper industry in Alberta, can the Minister of Labour inform the House whether it is the policy of the government to investigate those individuals who seek the right to form a trade union?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Not that I am aware of, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

HEALTH

INCREASE IN DRUG PRESCRIPTION PRICES—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the fact that the average price of medical prescription drugs increased by 140 per cent from 1949 to 1965, going from \$1.38 in 1949 to \$3.32 in 1965, can the minister say if he intends to take some measures enabling low income people and the whole population to buy prescription drugs at accessible prices?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I must tell the hon. member that a whole series of measures have already been taken in this regard. I would refer him to means made available under either the public assistance programs or the provincial health insurance programs.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED RESTORATION OF RANKS AND TITLES IN AIR FORCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister. Having spent some time last weekend at the largest air force base in Canada, and having learned firsthand of the great dissatisfaction felt by the men and women in that service that their service should be the only one which remains deprived of its proper ranks and titles, is it the intention of the government in the very near future to restore their ranks and titles to the members of the Canadian air force and thus end this discrimination against a great service?

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice for the minister.

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AIR CANADA

REQUEST THAT MINISTER ORDER CHANGE FROM USE OF JP-4 FUEL TO JP-1 FUEL

Mr. Duncan M. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Last June an Air Canada jet exploded at the Toronto international airport. The investigation which was ordered and which was completed nine months later could not determine the cause of this blast other than the fact that JP-4 fuel was in the tanks. Is the minister now in a position to state that the sole cause of the explosion was the use of JP-4 fuel, and is the government considering further studies of that fuel?