

Inquiries of the Ministry

could be considered dangerous. In view of the allegations or statements by Dr. Butler that it is particularly bad in the area now, we are conducting another study into the matter.

GRAIN**WHEAT BOARD DEMAND FOR REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCES**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I wish to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of letters being sent out by the payment department of the Canadian Wheat Board demanding immediate repayment of cash advances which are in arrears from the 1968-69 crop year, and in view of the fact that it must be obvious to the Minister without Portfolio that farmers will be unable to repay these advances until such time as they are able to deliver sufficient grain, will the minister instruct the Canadian Wheat Board not to demand repayment plus interest until the farmers have had an opportunity to deliver such amounts of grain as will repay the cash advances?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I was not given notice of the question. I have no knowledge of the particular letters to which the hon. member is referring. I will be glad to look at them with him and take up the matter of any specific letters with the Wheat Board, although, of course, the ordinary practice is that repayment of cash advances is made as grain is delivered.

Mr. Gleave: Does the minister wish to leave the impression that he is unaware that the Canadian Wheat Board—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**INCLUSION OF MONTMAGNY IN SPECIAL AREAS**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

A review of the cities included in the special area of the district of Quebec shows that the city of Montmagny has been left out. May I ask the minister whether he would agree to study the possibility of including that municipality in the special area of Quebec?

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Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would only look at the list, he would realize that hundreds of cities are not included in the special area of Quebec.

[English]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**RELATIONSHIP OF BIRTH CONTROL PILL TO SUICIDES AMONG WOMEN**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): My question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the alarming statement made by a medical researcher in the city of Toronto that the birth control pill may be responsible for a 100 per cent increase in suicides among women, is the minister aware of this and what steps are being taken to combat it?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is referring to a study by Dr. Anderson comparing the suicide rate last year with the year 1959-60. The doctor stated this could not necessarily be connected to oral contraceptives. At the same time he pointed out that because of the use of oral contraceptives by women there is a considerable reduction in the number of deaths. This is because of pregnancies not occurring and the ill effects of premature childbirths.

Mr. Rynard: A supplementary question. I asked the minister if he is aware of this statement and if he is going to take steps to see that further studies are made?

Mr. Munro: The findings of this doctor were made known to the special committee advising me on this whole subject prior to his releasing it in the medical journal. We are studying the whole matter very seriously. The data which he used to found his conclusions will all be taken into consideration. The final report will probably be ready in four or five weeks.

POLLUTION**MIRAMICHI RIVER—PRESENCE OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES**

Mr. G. A. Percy Smith (Northumberland-Miramichi): I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry or his Parliamentary Secretary. Is he aware of a recent serious spillage of toxic substances from Heath Steel Mines into the Miramichi River? This is a