

Inquiries of the Ministry

whether any of his officials were aware of this action by the West German government, and whether the NATO ministerial council was consulted by the German government with respect to an action which is bound to have very serious international repercussions?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I cannot add anything to what I have already said.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

ALCOHOL—REVENUE RECEIVED AND EXPENDITURE TO COMBAT USE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question that I should like to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, there was a question on the order paper in my name which in effect asked: (1) How much money did the federal government get in 1962 from the sale of alcoholic beverages? (2) How much money did the government spend in combating alcoholism in the same year?

The answer I received stated that the government's revenue from alcohol amounted to \$242,096,000, and that the government spent \$11,000 in combating alcoholism. My question today, sir, is are these figures really correct, or has not some error been made in their compilation?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question, which I received as I entered the chamber. I am having an investigation undertaken to check these figures, and I will advise the hon. member later.

[Later:]

I am now instructed that the figures given in the order for return are correct. Those figures, since they only represent amounts spent by the federal government in response to requests from the provinces, appear somewhat limited. However, they do not include the very much greater amounts which have been spent over a period of years by provincial governments, who have the prime responsibility in this field.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SMOKING AND CANCER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The question is this. About two weeks ago, in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for Simcoe East, the hon. lady stated

that any action her department might take with respect to the apparent relationship between smoking and cancer would be a matter of government policy.

In view of the increasingly grave public and medical concern over the situation, I wonder if the minister could give the house anything in the nature of a statement of government policy on this question.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my hon. friend for giving me notice of this question. I anticipate making a statement to the house early next week on this question.

DISCUSSIONS WITH BROADCAST GOVERNORS RESPECTING CIGARETTE ADVERTISING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the hon. lady report to the house on the discussions which, according to press reports, she is going to have with the chairman of the board of broadcast governors regarding television and radio advertising of cigarettes?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, may I say in answer to the hon. gentleman's question that I learned from the same source he did that I was to have such meetings, namely through reading the public press.

ROYAL COMMISSION—STATEMENT AS TO REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam inquired as to when we might expect the report of the royal commission on health services. The chairman of the commission has reported to me in the following terms:

Some months ago I indicated that we expected to be able to complete our report and to have it in the hands of the official translators and printers by the end of June. Unfortunately we cannot meet this objective. We commissioned a number of studies and had contracted that all these would be completed by the end of February at the latest. Several of the studies have in fact been completed but a number have not, including economic computations, manpower forecasts and certain tables which are needed as part of the text of the report. The commission will meet again during the last week of June. It is anticipated that another meeting will be required and it will be held early in September following which volume I of the report will be ready for printing.

This volume I will contain the important and essential parts of the report. There will be one or perhaps two other volumes of supporting material and it is our purpose to publish as appendices certain of the studies made for the commission by our research people.