Inquiries of the Ministry

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED USE AS STRIKEBREAKERS AGAINST SYDNEY STEELWORKERS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General but because of the urgency of the matter may I direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the Solicitor General been made aware of the fact that RCMP officers were used as investigators or strike-breakers, if you will, by the Attorney General of Nova Scotia against steelworkers at Sydney, and that they were required to visit the homes of workers to interrogate them as to their involvement in what was only a minor labour dispute which already has been settled by normal procedure? If so, what action has the Solicitor General taken to obtain full details on this very serious matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will draw this question to the attention of the Solicitor General who will be in the House on Friday, I believe.

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, will the Solicitor General make certain that the Attorney General of Nova Scotia is not allowed to use the RCMP in his anti-labour vendettas in the future, which can only do substantial damage to the good reputation of the RCMP; and will he report to the House as soon as possible about these shameful Gestapo tactics?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM

REPRESENTATIONS BY ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS—POLICY STATEMENT ON COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State when the House can expect a policy statement about the recommendations in volume 4 of the report of the B and B Commission, in view of the representations made by various ethnic organizations?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): The matter is before the cabinet, Mr. Speaker, and there should not be undue delay.

[English]

DRUGS

ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY LE DAIN COMMISSION TO PERSONS TO USE TAXIS, SMOKE MARIJUANA AND DRINK ALCOHOL

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is the Le Dain commission on the non-medical use of drugs paying people at the rate of \$20 per session, or per day, in Ottawa to travel to and from home

by taxi, smoke marijuana and drink alcohol and the like? Has the minister knowledge whether this is correct? and, if it is, could he inform us whether public funds are being used?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I very much doubt whether such reckless charges can be substantiated. As to the allocation of the Le Dain commission funds during the conducting of its study, I do not know the precise details in respect of transportation costs, and so on, but this is a matter I could look into.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Perhaps I could bring to the attention of the minister a newspaper article which purports to disclose this to be a fact. The newspaper is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Has the minister reprimanded the editor of the newspaper in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Munro: He should reprimand you.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order for the purpose of clarification. I do not object to the statement made by the minister, if I heard him correctly, but I wish he would make it on his feet, in public, in order that I might deal with it. Did I understand the minister to say that he would reprimand me?

Mr. Munro: How would anyone dare do that?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Simcoe North. We are running short of time. Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate that perhaps the minister is a little gutless in saying it from his seat and not on his feet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Simcoe North has the floor. I seek the co-operation of hon. members. There are about six minutes remaining before the end of the question period. Obviously, many members will not have time to ask their questions if we do not move a little more quickly.

HEALTH

SUGGESTED PROGRAM TO EXPEDITE GRADUATION OF QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In light of the fact that Canada is experiencing a drastic shortage of qualified physicians

[Mr. Jamieson.]