

party convention and I have received no official communication in that respect.

**Mr. Grégoire:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Then, should I conclude that if the provincial Liberal party sends an official copy of the report, the Minister of Justice—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member may not inform us of his conclusions.

**Mr. Grégoire:** Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have already recognized the hon. member for Battle River-Camrose (Mr. Smallwood).

**Mr. Grégoire:** I should like to put my question in another way, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### REDUCTION IN STRENGTH OF ARMED FORCES

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the information revealed by an answer tabled in this house last Monday, which indicated that Canada's armed forces have suffered a reduction in personnel from 123,000 to 105,000 over the past three years, could the minister indicate whether this process of attrition is to continue indefinitely or whether there is an absolute floor; and if so, what that floor is?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** This is a very broad question. I prefer to answer by saying I hope we can have adequate forces to meet our commitments.

### INCOME TAX

#### REQUEST FOR FORGIVENESS OF INTEREST ON TAX ARREARS OF PENSIONERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. E. Gray (Essex West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Is the government in a position to take action to make it unnecessary for certain pensioners who have been asked to pay to the department interest on taxes due on an instalment basis, in view of the fact that although the amount of the interest is small these people have very little income in addition to their old age security pensions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I would think this question is of a rather general nature, and

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

perhaps is one which should be discussed at the time of adjournment.

**Mr. Gray:** I will give the appropriate notice, Mr. Speaker.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF NEW CIGARETTE FILTER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Huron):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that he is a former minister of national health and welfare, and in view of the fact that he has indicated great interest in a special process for eliminating the dangerous ingredients in cigarettes which is being developed in Windsor, Ontario, will the minister use his well known persuasive influence to have this matter referred to the committee of this house on health and welfare?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is a question which I do not believe should be asked of the minister in his capacity as a former minister of national health and welfare.

#### REPORTED INCREASE IN INCIDENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the Department of National Health and Welfare taken cognizance of the alarming increase in the incidence of venereal disease in Canada? If so, are any measures being taken to bring the problem under control?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is a question of a very general nature, and I doubt whether it should be answered at this time.

**Mr. Noble:** Mr. Speaker, millions of dollars of public funds are being spent in respect of chronic cases of venereal disease in Canada now. I think some more effective means of control should be found.

**Mr. Speaker:** I appreciate the importance of the question posed by the hon. member, but I suggest the matter is much too broad in scope to be considered at this time. If there is a particular urgency I suggest that he might raise the matter at the time of adjournment.