

Inquiries of the Ministry

Incomes Commission be a public inquiry or a hole-in-the-corner inquiry which will make it impossible to question the steel companies with respect to their exorbitant profits?

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of his recently expressed desire to have the private sector agree to reasonable guidelines, is he now willing to call a meeting himself of the leaders of industry and labour to try to persuade them of the necessity for coming to such an agreement?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the ministers of the government in various departments have been consulting with various sectors of industry to ensure the results that the hon. member is seeking. There is no need at this point for me to convene a general meeting of all industry.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**USE OF PICLORAM TO DEFOLIATE
BORDER STRIP**

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government agreed to a proposal to defoliate a strip of the eastern section of the Canada-U.S. border with a chemical called picloram?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, for years brush and tree cutting was done by hand in this area. Since the mid-1950s the Boundary Commission has benefited from the experience of hydro companies, highway departments and other organizations maintaining brush-free rights of way and has used selective herbicides. The commission has consulted conservation authorities to ensure that the herbicides used not only permit desirable growth such as grass and ferns but are also non-toxic to animal life.

Mr. Aiken: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, am I to take it from this that the minister's department and the other departments involved are satisfied that there is no danger to the environment through the use of this chemical?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanamo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

DRUGS**INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF LEDAIN
COMMISSION—LEGALIZING
OF MARIJUANA**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he tell us whether the LeDain Commission on drugs has finished its report, and when it will be brought before the House of Commons?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, my latest information is that the preliminary report of the LeDain Commission will be available some time during the latter part of February. As to whether it will be made available to the House of Commons I cannot answer that because no decision has been made.

Mr. Woolliams: As a supplementary question, does the minister follow the Prime Minister's stand in reference to legalizing marijuana or the Solicitor General's stand? What is the policy of the government at this time prior to the presentation of the commission's report?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice. Does he intend to order the suspension of proceedings against the users of marijuana and hashish until the LeDain report is published?

[*English*]

Mr. Munro: That matter has not yet been decided.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! May we have some order, please. We might go on to another question.

Mr. Woolliams: But I have just started it—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member says he has just started. That is what I am afraid of. There are a number of hon. members anxious to ask questions, starting with the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question would not be exactly supplementary—