

Inquiries of the Ministry

view of the fact that a question is already on the order paper for answer. May I say I do not know of any rule against anticipation of a question that will be answered by asking an oral question in advance. However, I take it that the minister's explanation stands and that there is no further need to discuss the matter.

DRUGS**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY—INVESTIGATION INTO USE OF BARBITURATES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. D. Crestohl (Cartier): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. On February 7 I addressed the following question to him:

Will the minister report to the house on any inquiry being held in St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary on the use of barbiturates by inmates?

In the absence of the minister his parliamentary secretary replied as follows:

There is a full investigation underway... and a report will be presented to the minister. I am certain that it then can be brought forward to the house—

I should like to ask the minister whether that report is now ready to be presented to the house.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my attention was directed to the hon. member's question and the reply made by my parliamentary secretary. I should point out to the hon. gentleman that the reply did not state that the report as such would be presented to the house. What it does mean is that the subject matter might then appropriately be discussed in the house.

In so far as a report is concerned, the only specific report that is being prepared relates to the incident in which an inmate escaped, seized the wife of one of the guards as a hostage, held her hostage for over 24 hours, and was subsequently recaptured after an incident involving considerable violence. The whole circumstances surrounding this incident have been inquired into by one of the deputy commissioners of penitentiaries, and a report is in the course of preparation. I believe it is still being prepared. If it has been completed it has not yet actually come to my desk, but I expect it shortly. It would not be normal for me to lay this before the house, but of course I would be prepared to discuss any matters in connection therewith on my estimates.

With respect to the question on barbiturates generally, there is no specific inquiry; but as is well known we have been concerned for a long time with regard to the situation at St. Vincent de Paul. As I said at Montreal

last week, on the occasion of the opening of the Leclerc institution, steps have been taken by the new warden of St. Vincent de Paul which appear to be producing results. The steps appear to be effective. The traffic in barbiturates is not yet eliminated, but the indications are that it has been considerably reduced.

FISHERIES**NEWFOUNDLAND—REPORTED OPERATION OF FOREIGN DRAGGERS AT NIGHT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. W. Carter (Burin-Burgeio): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. I regret not being able to give him notice, but I received the communication on which my question is based just as I was coming into the house.

Has the minister received any complaints from Newfoundland fishermen in respect of foreign draggers dragging during the night time inside the 3-mile limit in the inshore grounds of the Port aux Basques-Rose Blanche area? If not, will he make an immediate investigation and take the necessary steps to safeguard the rights of the fishermen and protect their gear from this practice of foreign draggers?

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, no such complaint has come to my attention as yet. There may have been one received during the course of the day but I am unaware of any as yet. I will have the matter investigated and inform the hon. member as to the situation.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REPORTED INTENTION TO DISBAND CERTAIN CF-100 SQUADRONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Defence a question in regard to his statement of February 9, when he said that during the course of this year some four CF-100 squadrons will be phased out. I would like to ask the minister if he can explain that statement in the light of the Prime Minister's statement in Washington yesterday when he said that Canada does not intend to reduce her participation in the North American air defence.

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence): I do not think those two statements have a great deal of relationship to each other. As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, it was announced about a year ago, and certainly on two or three occasions during the last session of parliament, by my