

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL SECURITY****STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, RCMP, REGARDING RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister's attention been drawn to a speech made last week by the Director of the Security and Intelligence Division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in which he warned that recognition of additional Communist countries would increase the difficulties of guarding against espionage? If so, will the Prime Minister give consideration to the question of civil servants publicly expressing views on matters which are properly the responsibility of the government?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that the hon. member is asking the Prime Minister or a representative of the government to express a statement of general policy which normally should be made by way of a statement on motions. Perhaps the hon. member might like to ask whether such a statement will be made.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the seriousness of the matter I have raised, will the Prime Minister give consideration to making an early statement on this subject?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will certainly look into the matter, Mr. Speaker. If it is as stated by the hon. member, I will discuss the matter with the minister responsible.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**PRESENCE OF MERCURY IN FLOUR AND BREAD**

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): I wish to direct this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that mercury contamination beyond the point of food safety has been found in flour and bread in Ontario and Manitoba, what action has the minister taken to protect the consumer?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question yesterday. The Food and Drug Directorate has conducted intensive examinations of mercury levels in food. It was found that it was well below levels which could in any way be considered dangerous. These samples were

[Mr. Woolliams.]

taken throughout 1969. The hon. member made reference to particular areas and particular foodstuffs. We are looking into this. I am advised that we are still satisfied that the mercury content is well below the safe levels.

Mr. Noble: A supplementary question. I wish to advise the minister that Dr. Jarvis found in—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot advise the minister. He can only ask a question. Possibly he might put his advice in the form of a question.

Mr. Noble: Does the minister know of a doctor finding mercury contamination in bread and flour at a level of .35 in Manitoba and .15 in Ontario?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I believe that government officials have been in touch with this doctor. Prior to getting in touch with him I think the doctor advised that he had been misquoted with reference to that and was basing certain conclusions on one sample which were expanded in the interpretation of his remarks. We are looking into it.

Mr. Noble: A supplementary question. Could the minister advise if in his opinion mercury found in any food in addition to fish is being permitted?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, there is very little or no tolerance for mercury. As I say, we are very satisfied that it is well below the five parts per million. In fact, all our examinations revealed only .02 parts per million in any foodstuffs last year. The particular allegations of Dr. Jarvis are being checked into. Our information is that the doctor has stated that he was misquoted.

YELLOWKNIFE—PRESENCE OF ARSENIC IN LEAF VEGETABLES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Has the Minister of National Health and Welfare had an opportunity to look into the question concerning the arsenical content of leaf vegetables in Yellowknife? If so, has the public in that community been made aware of this? Also, what steps are being taken to eradicate it?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. After the hon. member for Yukon made reference to this yesterday I had the matter checked. I am advised that officials of my department are aware of the arsenic content in this particular area. It is well below any level that