

Inquiries of the Ministry

consideration been given by the government to the potentially adverse additional effect this will have on our exports?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in response to a question a day or two ago, and as is required under the agreement with the United States, the St. Lawrence Seaway authority has been carrying on discussions with the St. Lawrence Corporation, the United States entity, with regard to a possible revision of the existing tolls. I understand that the parties to this discussion now feel they are fairly close to agreement as to what they will be prepared to recommend to the two governments. So far no agreed recommendation has been made. If an agreed recommendation is made there will be public hearings in both countries before any final decision is made; and at those public hearings, of course, I expect that all considerations, including the ones referred to by the right hon. gentleman, will be gone into.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**COURT DECISION RESPECTING PROVISION OF MEDICAL CARE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the urgency of which will be apparent when I point out that I have in my hand a letter from the solicitor representing the native population who are concerned about the decision of the Saskatchewan appeal court on the medicine chest case.

The problem is that they must make an appeal within a given number of days, and in view of the answer the minister gave on March 18 to my colleague the hon. member for Skeena, as to whether the government would be prepared to supply medical and hospital services to the Indians and thereby make the appeal unnecessary, it is fairly important that an answer be given fairly soon so the native population and their representatives will know whether to proceed with an appeal or whether they can safely drop the matter.

I want to ask the minister whether he can give the house his decision in respect of this matter at this time.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the consideration of this matter has not been completed, but I hope to be able to give an answer to my hon. friend tomorrow or Monday.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Douglas: I have a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether, if it is not possible to make an affirmative decision, he will give some thought to supplying the necessary funds to cover the appeal against the decision of the court?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare which is related to the one asked earlier in regard to the Indian medicine chest case.

In view of the serious nature of the charges, which involve allegations of bad faith against the government and people of Canada, will the minister consider discussing this matter with his colleague the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources so that before the Indian claims commission legislation is brought down, adequate remedies may be provided in that legislation and this matter may be settled by legislation rather than litigation.

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to consider that suggestion.

[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY**REPORTED ADMITTANCE TO CANADA OF VIET CONG SYMPATHIZER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Yesterday I asked him questions concerning a certain Mr. Ramsey, a professional revolutionary, who has entered Canada.

Today I should like the minister to tell me if his department is now conducting or has asked the R.C.M.P. to conduct an inquiry into the case of Mr. Ramsey, who is seeking political asylum in our country, and what action the minister intends to take concerning that man?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, since yesterday I have received some information concerning Mr. Ramsey that was addressed to the Prime Minister.

Should Mr. Ramsey make a regular immigrant application, we shall examine it on its merits and determine what action to take.