

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that were asked on November 27 by the hon. member for The Battlefords (Mr. Campbell). They have to do with a drug that is known as peyote.

The first question was as follows:

Has the Department of National Health and Welfare received any indication that the use of peyote is spreading among Canadian Indians?

The answer is that the Department of National Health and Welfare has received reports which would indicate increasing use of peyote in parts of northern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Its use seems to be diminishing in southern Manitoba.

The second question was:

Does the department consider peyote to be a dangerous substance?

The answer is yes. Peyote buttons contain at least nine alkaloids which in large quantities can be harmful and indeed have caused deaths among the Indian population.

The third question was:

Are steps being considered to ban the importation of peyote buttons into Canada, or to otherwise control it?

The answer is that peyote has been declared a drug and as such must be accurately labelled in conformity with the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act. Some shipments of peyote have been seized and returned to the shippers because of improper labelling. The food and drug directorate have intensified their efforts to enforce compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and regulations with respect to the correct labelling of peyote. The situation is being carefully watched.

**IRRIGATION****SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION OF DAM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. M. Johnson (Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture arising out of the minister's prophesied and apparently hoped-for drought in western Canada. Will the minister recommend to his colleagues an immediate start on the South Saskatchewan river development project to take care of this prophesied situation?

**Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I have never prophesied a drought in western Canada and I pray that one will not occur, but the fact is that we do have droughts out there occasionally. The only kind of drought we are prophesying and praying for in Saskatchewan at the present time is a drought of C.C.F. votes.

[Mr. McCann.]

The South Saskatchewan river dam is in very good hands and is being given consideration.

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****NEW BRUNSWICK—ALLEGED DELAYS IN SETTLING CLAIMS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. C. Van Horne (Restigouche-Madawaska):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister now taking steps to prevent a repetition of the 7,000 delays in settling unemployment insurance claims in northern New Brunswick last year and would he make sure that this will not occur again?

**Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I shall take the hon. member's question as notice and reply when my estimates are before the house.

**IMMIGRATION****HUNGARY—INQUIRY AS TO RESULTS OF CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. F. S. Zaplitny (Dauphin):** I should like to ask the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration if he is in a position to report to the house on the results of the conference held yesterday in connection with Hungarian refugees. If not, will a report be made to the house in the near future?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, as it would take some little time to deal with this matter perhaps it would be preferable to do so when the estimate for Hungarian relief is before the house, I hope later today. There is one thing I should like to say and that is that it was a good conference and there was excellent indication of co-operation from everyone, including the representative of the Ontario government who was there. In that context perhaps I should explain that the only reason a representative of the Ontario government was invited and not representatives from other governments was that the Ontario government had directly approached the federal government with respect to this matter. We would hope to get the same kind of enthusiastic co-operation from all provincial governments that we received from Ontario, particularly in connection with the reception, care and maintenance of these people and the providing of whatever assistance in medical care may be required.

If there are any provincial governments prepared to co-operate in this matter I would be delighted to hear from them as to precisely what they are prepared to do.