

Inquiries of the Ministry

and Welfare. In view of the reports and statements made in the United States in respect of the incidence between smoking and lung cancer, can the minister say whether the research being carried on in his department, which he referred to on May 8 of this year, has reached the point where any report or statement can be made?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No such research is being carried on in the Department of National Health and Welfare, but various research bodies in Canada have been provided with funds out of the national health program to enable them to carry out research in various fields having to do with the health of the nation. That particular aspect of the matter is one subject that has been given consideration—not specifically, but along with others phases of cancer research.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a supplementary question? Have any reports on this question been received from any of the bodies doing this research? If so, will the minister make those reports public?

Mr. Martin: I should have said that we are aware of studies that have been made particularly in the state of New York with regard to the incidence of cancer in relation to cigarette smoking. But as to any conclusions drawn therefrom, I do not think I can say anything at this time.

FLOODS**CROP LOSSES IN NORTHWESTERN MANITOBA—
REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. S. Zaplitny (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) or, in his absence, the parliamentary assistant, or perhaps the acting minister. In reply to my question of December 7 with regard to emergency assistance to flooded-out farmers, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture stated that a decision would be reached on Saturday, December 12. Is the parliamentary assistant in a position to say what decision has been reached?

Mr. Robert McCubbin (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): In answer to the question of the hon. member for Dauphin, I do not think I said that a decision would be reached on December 12. I said only that the board of review would meet on December 12. I am very sorry to have to answer him by saying that a decision

has not yet been reached, but that all the applications are in and that they are compiling the results.

Mr. Zaplitny: I should like to quote from what the parliamentary assistant said—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would we not be losing time? If the quotation is not exact it has been modified, and the one that has been made today must be accepted.

[Later:]

Mr. Zaplitny: On a question of privilege, the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture has contradicted the statement which I made in the course of asking him a question. May I refer him to page 644 of *Hansard* of December 7, the last line of his reply, which is as follows:

A survey is being made by officials of our department and the report of that survey will be handed to the board of review of the P.F.A.A. on Saturday next when a decision will be reached with regard to the matter.

I submit that my statement was quite correct.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN CITIZENS INTERVIEWED BY UNITED
STATES FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): On December 1, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) directed a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson). The question asked whether there had been any instances, other than in the case of Igor Gouzenko, of the F.B.I. or any other United States agency interviewing Canadian citizens in Canada with respect to loyalty investigations in the United States.

My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, replied at once that he did not know of any instances similar to the one which the hon. gentleman has in mind, but he promised that the matter would be looked into and that if there were anything to report the report would be made at a later date. He then discussed this matter with me as the minister in charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and requested me to reply to the question of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in due course. I have accordingly had the matter carefully examined and would reply as follows: If the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is referring to formal inquiries by congressional committees or agents representing congressional committees, I can assure him that we have no knowledge of any such occurrences, other