

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications has no authority under either of these acts to rescind the decision of the Canadian Transport Commission.

Mr. Lewis: I did not say the minister, I said the government.

Mr. Stanbury: I listened carefully to the hon. member. The fact is that there are many channels for seeking review of this decision open to any citizen as well as by the parties before the commission. There has been no suggestion made by any of these parties or any citizen yet to the government or to the commission for such review. When the study by my department, to which I referred a few minutes ago, is completed we will certainly consider whether or not any action by the government is warranted.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the section of the National Transportation Act to which I have referred gives the Governor in Council authority, of his own motion, to rescind or vary any decision of the commission, may I ask the minister whether he will see to it that the government will consider rescinding this totally unjustified third increase in Bell Telephone rates in the last two or three years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Calgary North.

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DRUGS

MARIJUANA—ALLEGED STATEMENT BY HEALTH MINISTER OPPOSING LEGALIZATION OF POSSESSION AND USE—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I have already put this question to the Prime Minister yesterday. When the Minister of National Health and Welfare was speaking in Hamilton over the weekend, I believe, he stated to a group of students that he was opposed to the legalization of marijuana and hashish. Was he speaking for the government and is that the government's policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that he can ask only the Prime Minister, or somebody answering on behalf of the Prime Minister, to say whether a statement represents government policy.

Mr. Woolliams: Then I direct the question to the Prime Minister who took notice of it yesterday.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of National Health and Welfare say that he did not make the statement which the hon. member attributes to him.

Mr. Woolliams: Then possibly I can now put this question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. After listening to the answer given by the Prime Minister, does he say that he was misquoted in the Montreal *Star* which carried the headline, "Munro Opposes Legalizing Posses-

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sion Of Pot"? He is alleged to have said that in a speech to students in Hamilton. Does he take the position that he was misquoted?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am taking no position on being misquoted or otherwise, knowing the free way in which the hon. member quotes. What I said in Hamilton was that we would study the Le Dain Commission report and on the basis of that study come to a conclusion on whether we would adopt the recommendation with reference to removing the offence of simple possession of marijuana. I also reiterated the concern of the Le Dain Commission about the effects of marijuana on adolescents.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a further supplementary, and before I put it may I suggest that I was not quoting myself but was quoting from a newspaper clipping. May I ask the minister whether he has now placed the report before cabinet and has he made recommendations to cabinet with reference to the report of the Le Dain Commission, particularly with reference to the legalization of marijuana and hashish?

Mr. Munro: No, Mr. Speaker. The report has just been in the possession of my department for a matter of days. We are studying it and preparing recommendations to cabinet, but this will take a little while yet.

LE DAIN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING MARIJUANA—INQUIRY AS TO INSTRUCTIONS TO CROWN AGENTS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I put a supplementary to the Minister of Justice. In light of the recommendations made by Mr. Le Dain, have any instructions gone forward to the special agents representing the Department of Justice in reference to prosecutions for the use and possession of marijuana?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would want to check whether any action of any sort has been taken by the department so far on the basis of the report. So far as I know none has been taken.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

DISCUSSION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO FAMILY INCOME SECURITY PLAN

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister indicate to the House whether discussions have taken place for the past few days at the minister level with the minister of social affairs of Quebec with respect to Bill C-170 concerning family allowances so that certain amendments suggested by Quebec can be made?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Discussions at the official