

glue sniffing, to which I believe he replied that he would take the question under consideration. Since that time another death has occurred in Ottawa as the result of a similar type of activity. Could the minister now give us further information as to what action his department is considering?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the question concerning whether the law is to be changed to make glue sniffing an offence is not one which comes directly under my responsibility. The inference I take from the question is that presumably it should be made an offence under the Criminal Code. That would be a matter for the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Saltsman: I wonder then whether I might direct the question to the Minister of Justice and ask him whether his department is giving consideration to the question of legislation that would make glue sniffing an illegal offence.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): We are. I believe the hazardous substances legislation which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs would have some bearing on the subject of a remedy such as that sought by the hon. member and other hon. members of the house.

NATIONAL CAPITAL

INQUIRY AS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister designated as the minister of regional development. Will the minister answer my question of September 19 regarding whether a committee of the house will be established to deal with matters concerning the national capital?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Eventually, Mr. Speaker.

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO WESTERN FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that crop and harvest conditions in western Canada could be very serious, if not desperate, when

Inquiries of the Ministry

will the government bring forward an aid program to deal with this serious situation?

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FERRY SERVICES, SAINT JOHN, N.B.-DIGBY, N.S.

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to ask this question of the acting minister of transport but will ask it instead of the acting acting minister of transport. Further to the questions asked in this house on September 16 and 20 will the minister indicate the intentions of the government with regard to the Saint John-Digby ferry service?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am afraid I will have to explain again how the roster system is intended to work. Even if the acting minister were here it would not be up to him to answer the question. The idea is to have questions in respect of departmental areas answered on a given day.

Mr. Bell: I thank the Prime Minister for explaining this, but will the Prime Minister also explain why the people of Saint John and Digby are expected to wait, after the promises he made in the last election on this matter, whether ministers are here or not?

COMBINES

REPORTED STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR ON SALES OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice, and arises from a statement made last Friday by the director of investigation under the Combines Investigation Act. He is reported as having said, and I quote—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot ask questions in this manner. He must ask the question directly.

Mr. Schreyer: In view of the fact that the director of investigation has said that if a large number of Canadian retail stores were to stop buying California grapes he would be compelled to launch an immediate investigation, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether this public servant in making this remark was acting with the advice or consent of the government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have indicated that the question cannot be accepted in this manner.