

Oral Questions

may be 100 or more charges pending in Alberta. I would ask the minister to look into this in light of the fact that the regulations are numerous and the farmers have been experiencing marketing difficulties. Will he ascertain whether the charges have arisen because of marketing difficulties, and will he report to the House?

Mr. Lang: I will certainly look into it. I appreciate the specific information given by the hon. member. There certainly have been more infractions in the province of Alberta this year than in any other province, particularly in relation to rapeseed. I was not specifically aware of the situation in the Red Deer area and the charges there to which the hon. member refers, but I will be glad to look into the matter.

Mr. Woolliams: In light of the fact the minister says there have been more violations in Alberta than in any other province, would he or his department exercise the same kind of scrutiny and diligence with respect to breaches of the regulations in other provinces, particularly around Humboldt and Saskatoon? Further, does he find any conflict between being the Minister of Justice and the minister in charge of the Wheat Board?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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DRUGS

USE OF HEROIN—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF
MEMORANDUM AND DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO
CABINET—ACTION TO MEET PROBLEM

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the shocking revelation over the weekend that a memorandum and documents were presented to the cabinet last April warning that the use of heroin was increasing at a terrifying rate of perhaps 2,000 per cent over the past five years and that the cabinet should take immediate action, would the minister undertake to table those documents and memorandum in the House?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is very familiar with the rules in this regard and I do not foresee that those documents if they exist, will be tabled.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: In view of the revelation that the number of heroin addicts increased from about 500 to 10,000, can the minister say what action was taken, and can he also say what action the department is planning now to meet this grave social problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that at least the first part of his supplementary is not in order.

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the first part of the question deals with an opinion expressed in a newspaper: I have no comments to make. In answer to the second part, I shall

[Mr. Woolliams.]

be pleased to explain in detail what the department has done in this field as soon as the occasion arises, either in the House or before the appropriate committee of the House.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

QUEBEC—REDUCTION OF PENSIONS PAID TO
HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Since most disabled persons from Quebec are now receiving a reduced pension, could the minister tell us whether his advice has been sought by his Quebec counterpart in this connection and if he has given his agreement?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I have not been consulted, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Godin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Since during the last election campaign the provincial minister promised a pension raise, was the federal minister then consulted?

Mr. Lalonde: No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PAY OF CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ON VIET
NAM SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

Mr. Peter Reilly (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. In light of the fact the government acknowledged some time ago that Canadian military personnel in Viet Nam would be facing a dangerous situation, can he tell the House whether or not it is true that a married man, with children, who belongs to the Canadian Armed Forces, receives between \$300 and \$400 a month less than his counterpart in External Affairs, and can he justify this, if true?

• (1440)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that a question cannot be asked in those terms. A minister cannot be asked to confirm or deny a statement made outside the House or made in the press. The hon. member should ask the question directly.

Mr. Reilly: I will ask the minister then whether it is true that a member of the armed forces who is married, with children, receives \$300 to \$400 less than his counterpart from the Department of External Affairs and how the minister can justify this?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that the hon. member has succeeded in getting around the procedural