

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mrs. Jones: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare, does she not consider this is a question which should receive top priority in Canada at the present time?

Miss LaMarsh: It is receiving that priority, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles: In a Liberal way.

INQUIRY AS TO FEDERAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST SMOKING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Is the Government sponsoring a no smoking campaign?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Acting Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Sir.

Mr. MacInnis: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Acting Prime Minister take the opportunity to deny television news reports to the effect that a no smoking campaign is being sponsored by the Government?

Mr. Pickersgill: No, sir.

Mr. MacInnis: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Acting Prime Minister does not wish to take the opportunity to deny what is being said in respect of Government sponsored programs, would he not consider this another way of bilking the public by allowing such statements to be made on television news reports which the Government has no intention of backing up?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, as has not infrequently been the case I did not understand the hon. gentleman's question, if it was a question.

Mr. Starr: Nobody can understand your answers either.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Acting Prime Minister to consider his answers with a realization of how hard it is for me to understand them.

YOUTH CONFERENCE ON SMOKING—
SELECTION OF DELEGATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. A. McBain (Elgin): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and concerns the Canadian Youth Conference on Smoking and Health which is now being held in Ottawa. I hope

the Minister will not take my question as a criticism of this conference, but it may be helpful in case future conferences are held. I wonder if the hon. lady could advise the House why the Ontario delegates to this Canadian Youth Conference on Smoking and Health were selected only from the Ottawa and Cornwall regions? Why were the tobacco regions of Ontario and Quebec not given an opportunity to have students appointed as delegates?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I met these extremely cordial people for the first time, some of whom were cigarette smokers and some of whom had seen the light and were non-smokers. I noticed myself that many of the delegates from Ontario appeared to be from Eastern Ontario. I am afraid that for the answer to this question I shall have to direct the hon. Member to Queen's Park, since in each case the Provincial Government nominated those who were here.

CONSUMPTION OF BREAD UNDER CANADA
FOOD GUIDE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a very serious and important question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In a recent publication of the Department of National Health and Welfare entitled "Healthful Eating" there is this statement:

Bread and cereals are especially important in the diet as cheap sources of calories. According to the quantities eaten, these foods may also provide one quarter to one third of our dietary protein. Whole grain cereals and whole wheat—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. What is the question?

Mr. Pascoe: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to emphasize the importance of eating bread. In view of the continuing publicity being given to a diet in which it is stated that you must not eat bread or anything containing flour, will the Minister endorse the statements contained in her department's booklet, and will she agree that the information on eating bread is based on a carefully prepared chart entitled "Canada's Food Guide"?

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, certainly the information to which my hon. friend has referred has been issued over the signature of the Department of National Health and