

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DRUGS**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL—EFFECT OF
CANADIAN COMMITMENTS ON LE DAIN
COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. However, I see that the minister and his Parliamentary Secretary are absent, so perhaps I should direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is scheduled to be in the House for only three more days before the Christmas recess, will the Prime Minister tell the House precisely when the minister intends to make a statement on motions about the commitments the government could enter into on the Geneva protocol on psychotropic drugs, and the effect of these commitments on the recommendations of the Le Dain commission report?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the House should perhaps know that the Minister of National Health and Welfare is today attending a provincial health ministers' conference in Ottawa and that is the reason he is not in the House. The acting minister, the Minister of Labour, is present. I have no knowledge of this matter, but if the Minister of National Health and Welfare undertook to make such a statement to the House I am sure he will make it on one of the days he is here.

Mr. Rynard: I have a supplementary question. Is Parliament to be denied the right to make comments and give advice as to what the delegates to the Geneva conference should do, and how they should act? Are they going to Geneva as delegates to do just what the Minister of National Health and Welfare or the Liberal party tells them to do?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, certainly the House should not be denied that right. As the hon. member knows, under the Standing Orders there are many occasions upon which opposition members can express their feelings and give leadership in these matters. There is, of course, the budget debate which has been going on—

An hon. Member: It is continuing after Christmas.

Mr. Trudeau: —and there are opposition days next week.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITYEXTENT OF WARRANTS FOR ARREST OF MURDERERS
OF PIERRE LAPORTE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question.

As he answered questions asked by the hon. members for Compton and Calgary North, he said that specific charges would be laid against three persons. On what specific grounds does he feel that charges will be limited to three individuals and does he have definite indications that other charges will be brought against other persons and, if so, against how many?

[Mr. Sharp.]

[English]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the procedure which I follow consistently is never to say anything about investigations being carried out but only about charges brought against accused persons. Therefore, I am not in a position to answer the questions asked by the hon. member.

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[Translation]

UNITED NATIONSUSE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE—SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN
REPRESENTATIONS BY FRANCE

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the minister was absent from the country, however, perhaps his parliamentary secretary will be in a better position to answer.

In view of protests issued by the Canadian ambassador to the United Nations with regard to the treatment given to the French language at the United Nations, could the minister or his parliamentary secretary tell us whether Canada has been given assurance that the situation will be corrected?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my Parliamentary Secretary has an advantage over me in that he has just returned from New York. He assures me that in response to a very eloquent appeal by our ambassador, which I supported very strongly, for greater use of the French language at the United Nations, he received a positive answer.

[Translation]

[Later:]

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, this is a supplementary to the question put to the Minister of External Affairs by the member for Charlevoix.

Has the minister been informed by his parliamentary secretary whether France had supported Canada's representations for greater use of French at the United Nations?

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[English]

NAVIGATIONSURVEY OF MACKENZIE RIVER FOR PURPOSE OF
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. In light of factual reports that the Mackenzie River transportation route is the most effective for supplying the north slope of both Alaska and Canada, would he advise the House whether any preliminary plans have been made to survey the Mackenzie River in respect of improvements to navigation?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, a number of suggestions have been made and a number of studies are under way. My colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has announced a change in a program under which considerable sums of money were to be spent on one highway