

view of the large initiation fee Vancouver has to pay to enter the National Hockey League, whether he will investigate the N.H.L. under the Combines Investigation Act?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the law is clear that professional sports do not fall within the Canadian Combines Investigation Act. As the hon. member may have noticed, I had some discussions on this subject a few days ago in Washington and I stated some months ago in Toronto the onus was on professional sports leagues to show why they should not be included in a revised Combines Investigation Act.

TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED CURTAILMENT OF RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the deep concern felt by railway workers over the applications by the two railways to abandon passenger services and in view of requests by the unions representing these workers that hearings on these applications be held in public, will the government do what it can to see to it that these requests are met?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have the matter looked into.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

OTTAWA—METHOD OF SELECTING MONTREAL CONTRACTOR

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. It is based on the report that the government, in hot pursuit of its program of austerity, awarded a contract for \$27 million to a Montreal firm for the construction of buildings in the city of Ottawa. Can the minister advise if this contract was awarded by tender or by closed invitation?

Mr. Speaker: I think this question should be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency about the matter, it can be considered at the time of adjournment.

MANPOWER

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): My question is to the Minister of Man-

Inquiries of the Ministry

power and Immigration. In view of the growing concern about the number of non-Canadians on the faculties of Canadian universities and the lack of job opportunities for Canadians at the graduate and post-graduate level, can the minister tell the House if his department has in existence any programs designed to provide placement for the highly educated unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: Similar questions have been asked in the past. It has always been the view of the Chair that information of this kind should be given by ministers by way of a statement on motions. Perhaps the question might be asked in those terms.

Mr. Comeau: Would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions regarding this problem?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the problem my hon. friend mentions. I will seek some opportunity to give the information that I have available on this point.

DRUGS

LSD—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of recent hospital reports of an alarming increase in emergency treatment of young people suffering from the effects of LSD, as well as four deaths in the last month, is the minister considering the taking of early action on the legislative level?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, despite the tragedy of the particular instances which the hon. member has brought to the attention of the House, it is still the intention of the government to await the report of the task force under the chairmanship of Dean Le Dain of Osgoode Hall Law School. The Minister of National Health and Welfare is awaiting his report on the non-medical use of drugs. I think that is the position at the moment.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PURPOSE OF VISIT BY MINISTER TO MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Lorne Nysrom (Yorkton-Melville): I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister in a position to inform the House as to the purpose of the visit by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the Middle East?