

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): We do not keep any record of prescriptions for tranquilizers.

Mr. CURRAN: No, other than the druggist is required, under the food and drugs regulations, to obtain and hold all prescriptions available for inspection; and so far as facilities provide, routine inspections are made. But no record is required of individual prescriptions being forwarded to the department, as would be the case with narcotics.

Mr. WINCH: Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate it very much if the minister could explain the divergent responsibilities between his department, on the administration of the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act, and the great interest—which we all appreciate—of the Department of Justice in trying to work out some plan for the care and the treatment of addicts and a reduction of narcotic addiction. I find myself a little confused on that.

At the same time, would the minister answer the question which I asked under administration, which he said he would answer at this time, as to what assistance is given, or contemplated, or what can be done to assist the work—which I think is very wonderful, and is only done in Canada—done by the narcotic addiction foundation of British Columbia?

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Winch, may I suggest that we take one question at a time, please.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): First of all, I think, Mr. Chairman, it is safe to point out that the administration of the Opium and Narcotic Drugs Act is actually under the Department of National Health and Welfare. The R.C.M.P. are our enforcement officers, and I presume it is safe to say that the R.C.M.P. and ourselves work in a similar correlation to the Department of National Revenue and the R.C.M.P., because here again the R.C.M.P. are their enforcement officers.

We do work very closely together and are continuously holding meetings between the two branches of government with a view to studying this problem in all its complexities.

I would point out that our objectives might be put in these words: (a) to reduce as much as possible the amount of drugs that are available for illegal use; (b) to prevent as far as possible the creation of new drug addicts; and (c) to reduce as far as possible, and if possible, eliminate, the demand for drugs by existing addicts. We are trying to work toward that end.

Mr. WINCH: I appreciate that very much. I still do not quite have the information that I require. I am the last one to detract from any department.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): I think I know what you mean.

Mr. WINCH: But why, on this matter of the reduction of addiction and the treatment of addicts, does it appear that all announcements which are made public are from the Department of Justice, and not from your department?

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): I am going to ask Mr. Curran to explain exactly what happens in a case in point. We will take, in one instance, where there is an addict or, you might say, a distributor, and then correlate our department and the operations of the R.C.M.P.

The CHAIRMAN: May I suggest, Mr. Curran, that when you have replied, this committee should adjourn. You will have an opportunity, gentlemen, to have whatever meetings you desire on this subject.

Mr. WINCH: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, there is some misunderstanding there. I am not thinking or speaking of the past. I am thinking and speaking of the announcements made that there is going to be, or there may be a new plan on this question of addiction. It has been spoken about very often by the man most interested; that is, the Minister of Justice. How is it that that is not under your department?