

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the hon. member is merely inviting a minister to comment on a statement made outside the House, and such a question is normally not allowed.

[English]

DRUGS**MARIJUANA—REFERENCE OF NON-MEDICAL USE TO STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): I have a question I want to address to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In his absence, perhaps the hon. gentleman's Parliamentary Secretary could take it as notice. Is consideration being given to referring the issue of the non-medical use of marijuana to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs?

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): I assure the hon. member I shall bring his representation to the attention of the minister.

FISHERIES**HADDOCK—ICNAF QUOTA PROGRAM—PROCEDURE FOR RECORD-KEEPING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): My question is intended for the Minister of Fisheries; in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. It relates to the minister's press release of February 9 in which he stated that all ICNAF member nations will be limited to a quota of 12,000 and 18,000 metric tons of haddock in two areas. Could the Parliamentary Secretary inform us whether a procedure to cover record-keeping and enforcement of this quota program, including the type of fishing gear used, has been worked out and agreed upon by all ICNAF countries?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries): I shall have to take that question as notice. I have listened to some of the discussions; I do not think they have yet been completed.

INFORMATION CANADA**ISSUING OF NEWS RELEASE FOLLOWING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): I wish to ask the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada whether Information

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

Canada will be issuing a news release at the close of the dominion-provincial conference tomorrow?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the minister's statement on television on Saturday evening assuring the people that Information Canada would not promote anything that had not been passed by Parliament, I should like the minister to say how he can justify taking over the administration of a new body which itself has not been established by Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question is argumentative.

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the decision announced by President Nixon in respect of extending the ban on germ or chemical warfare weapons to include chemical toxins, will the Acting Prime Minister consider making a statement to the House concerning the position of the Canadian government in respect of the production, development and storage in Canada of such chemical and biological weapons.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The government has under consideration a statement on its whole position in this field which includes the problem involved in the question asked by the hon. member. I should think it would be included in the statement Canada would be making at the opening of the resumed disarmament discussions in Geneva.

POST OFFICE**MONTREAL STRIKE—ACTION BY GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. Could he tell us if the mail is now moving in Montreal or whether he has any report on the present situation there?