

*Inquiries of the Ministry***DRUGS****REQUIREMENT TO SHOW INGREDIENTS IN MEDICATION**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact that a St. Catharines boy is dead after inhaling vapour from a medication for colds the ingredients of which are unknown, and in view of the fact that the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act does not require manufacturers to publish the medical ingredients of such products, will the minister look into the matter of an amendment to the act to require the manufacturers to do so?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the food and drug directorate is at the present time investigating this matter. The results of this investigation will undoubtedly enable the minister to give the hon. member a more complete answer.

[*English*]

ESTATE TAX ACT**CONSULTATION WITH PREMIERS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH MEASURE**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask the Minister of Finance a question, but he ran out when he realized it. I see however that he is now returning. I should like to ask him whether, as a result of the conversations his government has had with the provincial premiers, he can now advise the house if any decision has been made by him or by his government to consult with the provinces before proceeding any further with the estate tax measure?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, if I might just complete my answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. minister may not do so without leave of the Chair, and the Chair has already recognized the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to make my answer more complete.

[*Mr. Speaker.*]

When I answered the question put by the hon. member for Calgary North, I simply said no. What I should have said was no, there were no requests for further consultations from the provincial finance ministers.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to get into an argument over this, but let me ask the minister this. Whether there has been a request, or there has not, would the minister consider approaching the provinces to see if they do consent to his estate tax measure as it affects property and civil rights?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, the estate tax was introduced before the ministers of finance meeting in December. At that time I indicated that I would be glad to discuss the matter with any finance ministers who were interested. I received representations from one province, which I answered before we proceeded with the bill.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question. Could the minister tell the house whether he has had a complaint from the province of Alberta, that his department is taxing the refund of estate tax that is made by the province?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, this is incorrect. I have not had a complaint, but I have heard such rumours. As I say, this is of course incorrect.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Finance. It is reported that income tax officials are taxing estate tax refunds as income. Would the minister kindly check on this and let us know formally in the house?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should direct his question to the Chair. In any event he has made a representation to the minister.

THE BUDGET**REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION IN SPRING**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the discussions over the last few days, can the minister now indicate whether or not it is any more certain, or likely, that a budget will be presented some time this spring?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have not ruled out the presentation of a budget. There is no date presently in mind as to when a budget will be presented.