

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE**UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF BREATHALYZER PROVISIONS**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. In view of the minister's intended reference to the Supreme Court of Canada of the breathalyzer provisions concerning impaired driving, is it his intention to contact the Attorneys General of the different provinces across Canada to obtain uniformity of practice with regard to impending charges and charges where convictions have been registered and the driving licences of the people concerned have been suspended?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, of course the decision as to how the breathalyzer provisions will continue to be enforced across Canada is one for the several provincial Attorneys General, but I shall take into consideration the proposition made by the hon. member.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the President of the Privy Council. In view of the problems created by this excessive use of executive power, would the minister arrange to bring forward for discussion and decision at an early date the recommendations of the committee on statutory instruments which contain precautions against the kind of impropriety we have recently seen?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the hon. member may misunderstand the situation. This situation has been very adequately protected by the courts.

FISHERIES**APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF CANADIAN SALTFISH CORPORATION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the fact that the legislation setting up the Canadian Saltfish Corporation received royal assent on March 25, and particularly in view of a telegram sent by the minister to the exporters asking them to desist from further exporting activities, is the minister now in a position to state when the president and chairman of the Canadian Saltfish Development Corporation will be appointed? The delay is hurting our marketing activities for the current season.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can assure the hon. member that work is proceeding and there are no delays. The appointments will be made, in the case of the chairman hopefully by this weekend, and in the case of the president by mid-month.

CRIMINAL CODE**SUGGESTED PROCLAMATION OF ALL BREATHALYZER PROVISIONS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I have a question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. In order to avoid further delay or confusion with regard to the breathalyzer law, is the government considering proclaiming all the breathalyzer provisions so that they may be in effect from now on, whatever the past situation may have been?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think the matter is properly before the courts and I should let it run its course before deciding what future course to recommend to the government. I intend to await the judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada.

BREATHALYZER PROVISIONS—SUPPLYING OF NECESSARY SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Justice could tell us at this stage whether there have been any negotiations or arrangements made with any organization or corporation in this country for supplying the necessary scientific equipment as set out in the bill passed by Parliament?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I stated on an earlier occasion, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been analysing all the applications for approval of sample breathalyzer equipment and are still doing so. To date they have not found themselves able to certify any particular make of equipment.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, that practically answers the question I had in mind except to ask if the minister can state whether any container has been developed that will assure the protection and preservation of the rights of the accused as contemplated under the act?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, a lot of containers have been manufac-