

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

I have investigated, Mr. Speaker, and I was assured that work schedules posted at the port of Fort Erie have not been changed to have days of rest coincide with the May holiday.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**AVAILABILITY OF LITHIUM CARBONATE FOR TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the approval of lithium carbonate by the United States Food and Drug Directorate for the treatment of mental diseases, and especially for the treatment of people suffering from the acute manic phase of manic depressive psychosis, and as there are some 10,000 mental patients in this country who qualify for the use of this drug, may I ask the minister when it will be released for use in Canada?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I must advise the hon. member that this drug is available to some investigators for experimental purposes. The director is looking into the matter and has been encouraging manufacturers to file a new drug submission for the particular drug, but none has done so yet.

SHIPPING**SINKING OF "PATRICK MORRIS"**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is he in a position today to give any further information to the House regarding the sinking of the *Patrick Morris*?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, two formal inquiries are under way, one by the Department of Transport and one by Canadian National. The report I have is purely interim, based on interviews with crew members last night as they arrived back in Sydney. It appears that the *Patrick Morris* slowed to pick up the body of one of the unfortunate victims of the fishing vessel accident and at that exact moment an enormous sea stove in the back doors of the ferry vessel. The seas at the time were running between 50 and 60 feet, according to these estimates. This appears to have been the cause. I have to emphasize to the House

[Mr. Côté (Longueuil).]

and the hon. member that this is only a verbatim report from crew members. A formal inquiry will be completed as quickly as possible.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information. From what he has said, it would appear that the doors were not opened by the captain or by any of his crew?

Mr. Jamieson: That is correct. The preliminary investigation and report indicate that the doors were not opened. It was simply the weight or power of these enormous seas that smashed them.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Can the minister indicate whether the inquiry will reveal whether the construction of the ship was adequate? The explanation by the minister does not sound too reassuring.

Mr. Jamieson: One of the matters which the inquiry will examine will be precisely that.

NATIONAL PARKS**ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PARK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, which I hope he will welcome. Can we now take it as assured that there will be an addition to the national parks system of Canada on the Pacific Coast?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was in Victoria yesterday and I had the pleasure to sign the final agreement for the development of a national park on the west coast of Vancouver island. All the details have been settled during the conversations I had with the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Kiernan.

[English]

Mr. Barnett: On a question of privilege, might I be allowed to offer my congratulations and also to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can only ask questions at this point.