

being given to extending to the International Joint Commission a mandatory power so that sewage disposal plants could be built under this mandate of the commission—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think this is the type of question which can be asked. This is of a very general nature, not seeking information, which can be sought at this time.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

CONTROL OF IMPORTATION OF MISLABELLED FOREIGN DRUGS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare of which I have given him notice. I want to congratulate him on the efficiency of his food and drug directorate in picking up 1,000 capsules of a dangerously mislabelled antibiotic in a Vancouver pharmacy. I refer to capsules of chlarmaphericol imported from Hong Kong and incorrectly labelled and coloured to represent the antibiotic tetracylin.

My question is this. Is the minister satisfied that adequate steps are taken by customs authorities to stop the importation of dangerously mislabelled foreign drugs? Also, is it a fact that the importer of those drugs has been approved by the government as a supplier to Canada's armed forces?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, officials of the food and drug directorate have taken every possible step to take into possession any known quantities of the particular drug referred to by my hon. friend. As I understand it, the difficulty arose in the importing factory in Canada. It was only because of careful inspection by officials of the food and drug directorate that it was possible to detect the mislabelling at an early date.

With respect to the second part of the question, it is very likely that this particular importer is so listed. We are checking further into this, and if any steps are necessary to bring about a delisting, they will be taken.

REPORTED INCREASE IN INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Considering the increased incidence

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of tuberculosis over the last two years, as announced a few days ago by Dr. Gregoire when speaking to the College of General Practitioners, has his department any plans for re-establishing effective control over this disease?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question should be placed on the order paper.

SHIPPING

REQUEST FOR REGULATIONS RESPECTING MANNING REQUIREMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the responsible member of the administration and ask him whether in view of the judgment in the formal investigation into a collision between two ships in British Columbia, one owned by Shell Oil and the other by Island Tug and Barge, which found that the collision resulted from the undermanning of the ships, this will provoke the government into early action in developing regulations with respect to ship manning requirements in Canada.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, due and full note will be taken of the report.

Mr. Howard: I have a supplementary question to ask of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware that this report was made last October?

Mr. Pickersgill: Yes, sir.

AIR TRANSPORT

REPORTED REDUCTION IN INTERCITY SERVICE IN WEST

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the hon. member for Moose Jaw-Lake Centre, the hon. member for Regina and I brought to the attention of the Minister of Transport the threatened termination of air services in various parts of Saskatchewan, including Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and so on. At that time the minister said the matter was under consideration, as to keeping up these services or providing alternative service. I would ask him now whether he is in a position to say what is the present position of this question, as it is of great importance to those several places I have mentioned in addition to others unmentioned.