

they intend to proceed with the court actions, is he not prepared to give them legal as well as financial assistance?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that this is a repetition of a question already asked.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): In light of the fact that in accordance with chapter 45 of the Statutes of 1912 the province of Quebec placed itself in the same position as the federal government with respect to the rights of the Indians and thereby became the guarantor of those rights, would the minister not consult with his colleague the Minister of Justice and other colleagues so he might be prepared to intervene as protector of the rights of the Indians and Eskimos in connection with this matter?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that there is a great deal of communication between different departments of this government.

JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—COST OF TRAVEL TO MONTREAL FOR PROTECTING INDIANS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Could the minister tell us whether his department paid the travel expenses of the Indians who went to Montreal for a demonstration against the James Bay project?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not have that information. The Indians receive funds from our department and from other agencies, which they use for the best possible purposes. Concerning expenses for that particular trip, I cannot say whether or not they were paid for by our department or any other agency, but I must recognize that it is their right to hold a demonstration.

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[English]

DRUGS

RESIGNATION OF DIRECTOR OF NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS DIRECTORATE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT—PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare in relation to the resignation of Dr. William Craig, the head of the federal directorate dealing with the non-medical use of drugs. Does the minister propose to make any statement in the House with regard to the resignation of this very senior official?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I had not intended to do so, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Craig submitted his resignation, indicating at the time that he had no comment to make. I take it that as a public servant he has a right to submit his resignation at any time, and that is what he has done.

Inquiries of the Ministry

• (1420)

Mr. Stanfield: Is it the intention of the minister to make any additional funds available in the hope that a suitable successor to Dr. Craig can be appointed who feels he can carry on this useful work?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I believe very useful work can be carried on now under the present allocation of funds. If the priorities are such that further initiatives have to be taken in this area, the government would be prepared to respond in such circumstances.

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF FINAL REPORT OF LE DAIN COMMISSION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Would the Minister of National Health and Welfare tell the House when the full and final report of the Le Dain commission will be tabled and whether the report is now in the hands of the government?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, to answer the latter part of the question first, no, the report is not in the hands of the government. I cannot be very explicit as to when the final report will be submitted. The chairman has indicated that there will be another instalment of the report dealing with marijuana and I expect it fairly shortly. The final report, which will include all the research studies and the complete findings covering the entire area under the commission's mandate, I expect to be some months away.

NON-MEDICAL USE OF DRUGS DIRECTORATE—REQUEST THAT MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the internal strife, if I may use that word, that is going on, would the minister be prepared to appear before the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs to explain the situation to the committee and relieve the concern of Canadians?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, first, I do not agree with the premise of the hon. member with respect to strife. Second, when I appear before the committee in the normal course of events to explain my estimates, committee members will have ample opportunity to ask me any questions they wish.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS

ESTABLISHMENT OF PARK IN TÉMISCAMINGUE—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.