

Inquiries of the Ministry

the extreme doubt now placed on the veracity of the statements of the Solicitor General, will the Prime Minister initiate an independent inquiry into the allegations of Mr. Eadie and others?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Solicitor General has yet had an opportunity to familiarize himself with last night's program and until such time as he has I do not think it would be appropriate to make a response.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Is he going to repudiate the statements made last night on the CBC program "Mid-Week" and, if not, is he now prepared to appear before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee along with those officials involved in the Cornwall informers investigation?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, last night I had the opportunity of speaking to the Maritimes Corrections Association in Prince Edward Island, and did not have time, as the hon. member probably had, to watch television, but I have asked for a copy of the speech.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, will the Solicitor General undertake to the House to inform himself and then reply to the question I have asked him?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not only a lawyer but an expert in that field; he should know, therefore, that he should refer to facts before asking that type of question.

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[English]

DRUGS

INCREASING USE OF HEROIN IN ONTARIO CITIES—
DISCUSSION WITH ONTARIO OF JOINT PROGRAM TO
COPE WITH PROBLEM

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of very serious drug problems, particularly the widespread use of heroin in Ontario cities as indicated in the report prepared by a committee appointed by that department, is the department taking steps to discuss with the government of Ontario the planning of a joint program in order to deal with this situation?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's question. This report has just recently come to my attention. There is no doubt that not only in Ontario but in other provinces there is mounting evidence of increasing inflows of heroin and of people resorting to its use. We have endeavoured to upgrade, on an emergency basis, various aspects of our drug abuse program. As we analyse the findings we are certainly entertaining a course of action such as the hon. member has suggested.

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Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I am not critical of the number of expensive studies undertaken by the minister's department, but there is not much point in carrying out studies unless they are followed by action. Will the minister consider discussing what can be done about this very serious problem with the province of Ontario and other provinces?

Mr. Munro: I have already answered the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that we are considering adopting that very course. These studies can be justified by the fact that we have already expended considerable money to combat this problem. These studies have indicated to us how this money can be most usefully directed.

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INDUSTRY

PULP AND PAPER—PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT
SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): In view of the reported widespread lay-offs throughout our economy, particularly in the pulp and paper industry, which are beyond the scope of the Employment Support Act, will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce advise the House whether the government intends to introduce a comprehensive employment support program to overcome this disaster?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the pulp and paper industry singled out by the hon. member, I have already indicated a number of things that are being done at the federal and provincial levels, in the case of Quebec. A few days ago I indicated to the hon. member that we were looking into other possibilities. I also indicated that a meeting is to take place between the leaders of that sector of Canadian industry and members of the cabinet.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, could the minister advise whether these support or relief programs will include assistance to the pulp and paper industry in respect of the \$700 million cost of anti-pollution measures and other types of programs?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that some of the measures announced in the last budget would accomplish this, as well as some measures being taken by the Quebec government. I have indicated also that we are looking into other ways of helping in this very difficult situation. My hon. friend is perhaps aware of the fact that the pulp and paper industry is picking up a little. Sales in August were 3 or 4 per cent higher than they were last year at the same time, and with regard to the United States they were 9 to 10 per cent higher than they were in August last year.

Mr. Marshall: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that at this point we should perhaps limit the number of supplementary questions because we will be running short of time in a few minutes.