

[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF
ADVISORY COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. A few weeks ago, I asked him a question concerning the advisory committee studying the report of the committee on penitentiaries including, of course, the RCMP, the National Parole Board and the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Would the minister now tell the House if he got that report from the advisory group? If so, could he tell if in the short term, in the medium term or the long term, some of those recommendations could be implemented? If not, when does he intend to make a statement in the House?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, indeed I got preliminary reports that I am now studying and discussing with officials of my department. The hon. member will also see that in Bill C-51 now before the House, I proposed several amendments taking into account some recommendations of the committee which studied the penitentiary system. Unfortunately, some of those amendments have been, and rightly so, declared out of order by the chairman of the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs of the House. However, I intend to present again in the House at the third reading stage one of these recommendations that would propose the almost immediate implementation of one of the recommendations considered as essential by the members of the committee, namely granting certain powers to the Solicitor General allowing him to appoint independent chairmen to the internal disciplinary courts of the penitentiaries.

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[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

NUMBER OF WIDOWS NOT RECEIVING PENSIONS AND LOW
LEVEL OF DISABILITY PENSION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the increasing concern of veterans and their organizations over the number of widows who do not receive pensions, and in view of the increasing concern over the widening gap between the rate of the disability pension and the base to which it was attached a few years ago, as well as the minister's sympathetic statements made several times to the effect that this matter is being reviewed, will he do his best to get the members of the cabinet to agree to bringing in this year the necessary legislation to correct these two situations?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has indicated, this is a concern of mine and many people in the House. As far as trying to get it implemented this year, I will do my best.

Oral Questions

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

NAMING OF KEITH CARRUTHERS ON EXTRAPARLIAMENTARY
OPPOSITION LIST—OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR NAME

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have two questions for the Solicitor General concerning a public servant, Ian Keith Carruthers, who found his name on the extraparliamentary opposition list. I am sure the present Solicitor General knows about this. There has been a report from the press that his name is there by accident, that when the name Carruthers was used, it referred to another Carruthers. With this in mind, has the Solicitor General conducted an investigation with respect to the matter because the name of Ian Keith Carruthers is very important to himself and I hope his good name is also important to the government.

● (1500)

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): As far as we are concerned on this side of the House there never has been drawn up the type of list the hon. member refers to, the so-called enemies list, so there is no action to be taken in that regard.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is very interesting. If it never occurred, then it suddenly appeared in the press. Hon. members know full well that it did not come from this side.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The public servant in question was, and I guess he still is, a valued employee of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and an officer with CMHC. I assume they would be very interested in his good name. Given the fact that his name has appeared in the press and that his reputation might have been affected thereby, has the Solicitor General received any representations from his colleague the Minister of State for Urban Affairs with respect to his employee or from the President of CMHC, and if he has not, would he take it upon himself personally to inquire into this state of affairs and at least make a statement with respect to the matter in the House of Commons and use his good offices to establish a tribunal before which this public servant could clear his name, a name which is valuable to him and which, I hope, is just as important to the Solicitor General and his colleagues?

Mr. Fox: If the hon. member is referring to a civil servant who feels his name has been slandered or libelled and if that has come about because his name has been published in a newspaper, I can only suggest to the hon. member that his proper recourse is to sue the newspaper which apparently published his name and accused him of being on some sort of list, or black list, which would have originated with the government.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The public servant in question has sued the Minister of Supply and Services and the Solicitor General in an effort to clear his name. He has indicated he is not interested in monetary damages but in