

audit of Air Canada, carried out preferably by the Auditor General of Canada?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): According to an old saying, Mr. Speaker, one need not be more royalist than the Queen.

[English]

Mr. Justice Estey did not ask that his mandate be extended. He is satisfied with the mandate he has, and he is satisfied that the story which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* is not true, and that is all. From now on I will read the reports, and if the reports indicate there is any wrongdoing I think that will be the proper time to ask for a deeper inquiry.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would mind answering the second part of my question as to whether he would consider the possibility, in view of the latest allegations, of an immediate and independent audit, preferably carried out by the Auditor General of Canada?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Would you suggest that Mr. Justice Estey is not independent?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The accounts have never been audited properly.

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HEALTH

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON FAMILY PLANNING IN VIEW OF AMOUNT PAID FOR ABORTIONS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Do I have the Prime Minister's attention?

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Leggatt: In view of the present estimate of the cost of abortions in Canada, now running at \$12 million under our present medicare scheme, about \$6 million of which is now paid through federal funding, would the Prime Minister advise the House whether it is government policy to favour abortion over family planning, particularly in view of the fact the Family Planning Association of Canada has received only \$600,000 in funding, and the total amount of federal funding for family planning is only \$1.75 million? In view of the amount now being paid in respect of abortions does this government favour abortion over family planning?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the question is somewhat argumentative. I just want to point out that the figures given by the hon. member convey the wrong impression because they do not, of course, include the moneys the federal government offers the provinces through cost-sharing programs and the Canada Assistance Plan for various forms of family planning. These substantial

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amounts should be added to the figures the hon. member quotes. It might be relevant to point out that not every province is acting in this area, and that they, too, have a very important responsibility. Perhaps the hon. member would consider addressing his question to some of the provincial premiers.

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PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURE FOR NEW INSTITUTION

Mr. Art Lee (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary and is addressed to the Solicitor General. In view of the announced cutbacks in the expenditures of the Solicitor General's department, can the minister assure the House that there has been no cutbacks in respect of the building of a new B.C. penitentiary which is sadly needed, as indicated by recent events?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there has been no cutback with regard to the maximum security penitentiary which would replace the B.C. penitentiary. The only holdup is in finding a suitable site. I might say that we are presently well advanced in respect of the penitentiary at Mission and we have also been given approval for the site at Kamloops. We are now looking for sites in the lower mainland area of British Columbia.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF IMPORTATION OF BROILER CHICKENS FROM UNITED STATES—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Is he aware of the massive imports of American broiler chickens which are threatening the survival of hundreds of poultry producers in Quebec, particularly of those of my area? Can the minister tell us whether his department intends to take steps to prevent those producers from being forced out of business?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any change in the conditions concerning the broiler industry. As the hon. member knows, there is no national plan and we have no control over that production and supply. Such programs come within provincial jurisdiction, so there is not very much we can do about conditions at the present time.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Does the minister mean that he is not aware of the dumping of American broiler chickens in the province of Quebec? Does his department not have daily or weekly figures or data on American exports?