

**YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT**

## MINIMUM AGE PROVISION

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. Last week he met with his provincial counterparts to discuss a number of matters including the Young Offenders Act and the minimum age therein. Would the Minister advise the House whether or not the provincial Ministers agreed with the position of the Ontario Attorney General that the minimum age for criminal responsibility, which is now 12 in the Young Offenders Act, should be reduced to seven or whether they felt child welfare legislation was still the best way to deal with children under the age of 12?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the Hon. Member whose interest in this area is well known and appreciated. Indeed, the provincial Attorneys-General, Ministers of Justice, and myself discussed this matter at the petition of the Attorney General of Ontario. There was no consensus on the proposition put forward but I think there was an understanding and realization by all Ministers that we want, at least initially at the officials' level, to look at the operation of the Act and provincial child welfare legislation to make sure that between the two levels of jurisdiction and the two pieces of legislation we adequately covered the question of children at or under the age specified in the Young Offenders Act so that the public is properly protected. We are going to have our Deputy Ministers start that investigation and I think it will be to the benefit of the administration of justice.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would advise Hon. Members that the last question and supplementary will be those of the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan.

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**MUNICIPALITIES**

## REQUEST FOR MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND CITY MAYORS

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As he knows, I tried yesterday to get the Prime Minister to indicate whether he would be prepared to meet with representatives of the mayors of 14 of Canada's largest cities. Will the Deputy Prime Minister personally undertake to arrange a meeting between the Prime Minister and the mayors so they can in the best way possible indicate to him the need for federal participation in a federal-provincial-municipal program to rebuild our cities?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I know a lot of government Ministers have met with the mayors. Indeed the

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Prime Minister wanted to meet with them. However, I think the Hon. Member is aware that he has been preoccupied with a number of other things. The Queen Mother is arriving in Ottawa today as well. I know his intentions are clearly there and, if there is some way it can be arranged, he would be happy to do so.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's response. Perhaps if we had that response yesterday the questions today would not be necessary.

If a meeting is arranged at some mutually convenient date, in preparation for that meeting will the Government of Canada re-examine its policy statement about no funding to see whether or not the Prime Minister's negotiating skills can be put to their very good use to come up with a package that will see federal money assisting the municipalities?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I am certainly pleased that even the Hon. Member has acknowledged the negotiating skills of the Right Hon. Prime Minister.

I know all Members sympathize with the plight of the municipalities. I know as well that the Hon. Member sympathizes with the very heavy debt burden that the federal Government is facing. That was elaborated on by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Finance. That is certainly not to take away from the seriousness of the issue and in no way detracts from the fact that we are sincere about their plight. I will certainly convey the Hon. Member's representation to the Prime Minister at an appropriate time.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION**

## TABLING OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FOR PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

**Mr. Speaker:** It is my duty pursuant to the provisions of the Representation Act, 1985, to lay upon the Table a certified copy of a supplementary report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission to the 1987 report for the Province of Alberta.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure you that I am not rising on a point of order to question the ruling you made during Question Period to the effect that during Question Period at least a certain three-letter word,