

*Oral Questions***PENITENTIARIES****COSTS OF KEEPING INMATES IN PRISONS**

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, for many years Canada has spent more on prison inmates per capita than on any other individuals in the country, and with fewer results. The average cost per inmate is \$62,000 a year, and 70 per cent of inmates are repeaters. Our 2,000 minimum security inmates, for example, cost \$40,000 a year to be kept under lock and key, even though they are not considered dangerous on the outside.

Alternatives to incarceration for some offenders should be found. I am greatly encouraged by the progress being made by our Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) in taking a lead in this field.

The State of Georgia, for example, has experimented successfully with the kind of program that should be considered here. The offenders are self-supporting throughout the program which provides for much better development for returning to society. This program has an 85 per cent success record, in contrast to Canada's 70 per cent failure record. This is the direction in which our country should be heading in the treatment of offenders.

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK MINISTER OF FISHERIES**

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in our gallery of the Hon. James Tucker, Minister of Fisheries for New Brunswick.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA BE SEVERED**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of External Affairs. I believe we were all affected by Bishop Desmond Tutu's appeal to Canada, asking this country to show its moral leadership in order to put an end to the plague of apartheid.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that Canada has already introduced a number of sanctions, but I wonder whether the Government is prepared to respond to Bishop Tutu's request and do even more.

Is the Government prepared to order full sanctions against South Africa and break off diplomatic relations with that country?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a very important question.

I was in Toronto Friday night with Bishop Tutu, and I heard his speech. The Canadian Government's position is quite clear. As the Leader of the Opposition just said, we have already taken certain measures. We have shown leadership, not only by our actions here in Canada but also through the Commonwealth. One result has been to form a group of eminent persons who are to try, on behalf of the Commonwealth, to find an approach that might be effective. This group intends to go on working on its report. I believe it is in Canada's interest as one of the countries that helped to create this Commonwealth group, to respect its work. There will be a report at the end of June, which will give us a chance to decide what kind of action could be taken by Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order! Supplementary question.

[English]

CANADIAN POSITION IN ADVANCE OF COMMONWEALTH MEETING

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, Bishop Tutu, in his address in Toronto, did not have too much confidence that the Group of Eminent Persons still had legitimacy with the Union of South Africa. I can understand that the Government may not at this stage be willing to impose total sanctions, wishing to wait for some joint action by the Commonwealth. Would the Minister not think it appropriate to respond to the suggestion of the Rev. Bishop Tutu that, in order to show leadership, Canada might move toward a more definitive and firmer action in order to set a tone for that Commonwealth meeting?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, most commentators, I think, would agree that the actions taken by the Government of Canada over the last year to cut off the Export Development Corporation applicability, to end our double taxation agreement, and actions taken on a wide range of other fronts, not only inspired other countries to take similar actions but created a climate in which it was possible for the Commonwealth, when it met in Nassau, to establish the Eminent Persons Group.

I agree with the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition that we should wait the remaining 29 or 30 days for the Eminent Persons Group to have the opportunity to report. Canada has made it clear that while it would not be our preference to disrupt economic and diplomatic relations with South Africa, if other alternatives do not work then we will do that. Canada will also maintain on this issue the active leadership we have demonstrated since the election of this Government.