

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: May I ask another supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Since available figures reveal that the activities of the Mafia have increased more than fourfold over the past five years, does the minister believe his new legislation will be able to do away with that scourge?

[English]

Mr. Basford: I would hope that a revised Bankruptcy Act would prove more effective in dealing with the underworld, in so far as they deal in bankruptcies.

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PENITENTIARIES

INCARCERATION OF YOUTHS CONVICTED OF NON-CAPITAL MURDER IN PRINCE ALBERT INSTITUTION RATHER THAN COMMON JAIL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): My question is directed to the Minister of Justice as Acting Solicitor General. It has to do with 13 youths from Calgary who, after a mass trial some weeks ago before Mr. Justice Primrose for the murder of one person, were found guilty of non-capital murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. An appeal has been launched but cannot proceed for a couple of months, and in the meantime they are being incarcerated in Prince Albert penitentiary. This is an unusual course to follow; they should be in a common jail in Alberta. Would the minister have this situation looked into? The members of the families of these young men are deeply concerned that their respective relatives should be in a penitentiary, associating in a top security institution with hardened criminals.

Hon. John N. Turner (Acting Solicitor General): I will look into that matter immediately, Mr. Speaker.

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TRANSPORT

PROPOSED INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES ON POTATOES

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to assure the House that the railway companies are not about to greatly increase freight rates on potatoes moved from the Maritime provinces to Montreal, Toronto and other major markets?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, I did not follow the question. There was a bit of hubbub going on.

Mr. MacLean: I asked the minister whether he could assure the House that the railway companies are not in the process of greatly increasing freight rates on potatoes moved from the Maritime provinces to Montreal, Toronto and other major markets?

Mr. Jamieson: As the hon. member knows, I cannot personally give such an assurance. I have been advised by the railways that there is, I believe, a 4 per cent increase proposed and that this has been discussed with the various companies concerned and with the provinces

Inquiries of the Ministry

concerned. I have a lengthy reply in response to my request to the railways for information on this matter, and I shall be glad to make it available to the hon. member. It may serve to clarify the situation for him.

Mr. MacLean: What action is the government going to take to compensate for the grave damage that will be suffered by the export potato industry because of the extraordinary increase in freight rates on potatoes moving to export points?

Mr. Jamieson: Here again, Mr. Speaker, I can only pass on to the House what I have been told by Canadian National, which is to the effect that part, at least, of the increase is due to a change in charges for cars. This change was not in effect before because it was not in effect in the United States, and it is necessary to keep a balance.

Since that time there has, as I understand it, been a charge in the United States and the charge in Canada is comparable. I am advised by the railways that the relative position remains the same. However, I have asked, as I have said, for a more detailed explanation. I have one explanation here now which I will be glad to send to the hon. member, but I will look into the matter further in order to get a more thorough explanation.

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—IMPLEMENTATION OF PREMIERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the minister has referred to yet another increase in Atlantic freight rates—I think this is the fifth in the last few years—is the minister now prepared to say whether or not he is considering implementing the recommendations of the four Atlantic province premiers on Atlantic transportation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have answered this question on previous occasions. I think it is a fact that a great many of those recommendations have already been implemented and others are in the process of being implemented. The committee involving the four Atlantic provinces and the federal government, as well, incidentally, as the province of Quebec, is still meeting on these questions and as individual ones are being studied they are being put into effect, the most recent example being the announcement that will be made in a day or two regarding an increased subsidy in terms of freight movements by truck. That was one of the recommendations. The matter is an ongoing one, but quite a few of the recommendations have already been implemented.

APPLICATION BY UNITED STATES RAILROAD TO MOVE BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he has received a telegram from the United Transportation Union in Edmonton asking him whether he has taken any steps to prevent United States railroads from transporting coal from southern Alberta and British Columbia to Roberts Bank port in Vancouver?