

*Oral Questions*

discussion in this deal centres around the constitutional obligations of Canada toward the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Of course, as part of the Terms of Union that will be taken into consideration. That will obviously be upheld.

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[Translation]

**THE ENVIRONMENT****ACID RAIN—BILLS BEFORE AMERICAN CONGRESS—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Special Committee on Acid Rain went to Washington this week to discuss the bills now before Congress with Senators and members of Congress. There are four bills to reduce the emissions that cause acid rain.

Can the Deputy Prime Minister assure the House that the Government will continue to urge the U.S. Congress to pass a law this year, instead of waiting for a new Administration and a new Congress, so that some action is taken this year?

[English]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, of course the Prime Minister and many Members of Parliament, particularly the Member for Parry Sound—Muskoka who was Chairman of the committee, have provided distinguished leadership in that particular area. In spite of what the New Democratic Party and Liberal Members across the way suggest, progress is being made and awareness is at a much higher rate today than it was three or four years ago.

Our Government, with the support of Members of Parliament, can take a great deal of credit, particularly with recent pronouncements in the States of New York and Ohio.

**REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT PRESSURE**

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, indeed there has been progress. There is an opening now. That is precisely why I am putting my question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Will there be pressure for legislative action in the Congress this year? It seems there are more Senators than Congressmen willing to push for a law this year and no hope that we will get a better deal if we wait another year. Yet our Government seems to be stalling. Our Ambassador was prepared to wait.

Why is our Government not doing as much as American Senators and Congressmen to get a law through this year?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that we will pursue this very important initiative with the very same vigour in the future as we have in the past.

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**PENITENTIARIES****LETTERS SENT BY CONVICTED MASS MURDERER TO PARENTS OF  
VICTIMS**

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Solicitor General. It relates to the mailing privileges of inmates incarcerated in federal institutions.

I have received reports recently from parents of some of mass murderer Clifford Olsen's victims who have received from him obscene letters which visibly detail and describe the terrible and senseless brutality which he committed against their children. This is an outrage.

One letter I received described Clifford Olsen's letter as: "a sick perverted document directing hate toward myself and my family".

Will the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House if the Solicitor General is aware of this and what he will do to prevent its continued occurrence?

**Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, it is certainly unfortunate that these letters have gone out to families of victims. The situation is bad enough, and having to relive it makes it that much worse.

The Solicitor General is certainly aware of the situation, as are the wardens of our institutions. As a result of this, the warden has instructed that henceforth all of Olsen's correspondence, except with his lawyer and other privileged correspondence such as with Members of Parliament, will be scrutinized.

As a matter of routine, inmates' correspondence is not read unless directed by the warden. However, if persons receive a letter from an inmate and do not wish to receive further letters, they can correspond with the correctional offices and indicate that they wish no further correspondence from that particular inmate.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There will be two questions by the Member for Notre Dame de Grâce—Lachine East and one by the Member for Vancouver East. That will end Question Period.