

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PETAWAWA—POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING CAMP AREA INTO QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. T. Lefebvre (Pontiac): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the efficient Minister of National Defence. Further to the meeting held last night and the discussions with his officials and others interested in the possibility of expansion of the Petawawa armed forces base, perhaps into Pontiac county on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River, would the minister assure the House that if such expansion is contemplated the local elected councils will be consulted before such plans are finalized?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I did visit Petawawa base yesterday and it is true that we do need to improve and possibly to expand the training area. However, there are no plans to expand the base across the river to the Quebec side. I can assure the hon. member that if in the future there are plans to expand across the river, the consultation that he has asked for will be provided to any officials in the communities that have an interest in the matter.

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ENERGY

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ENABLE LOCAL GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARINGS

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister of energy may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the National Energy Board pipeline hearings. In view of the fact that the proposed pipeline would have enormous social, economic and environmental effects on the Mackenzie valley, and in view of the fact that certain groups qualified to represent these concerns are prohibited from full participation in the hearings because of lack of funds, would the Acting Prime Minister undertake to supply these groups with sufficient money to enable them to participate fully in the hearings?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has used the word "prohibition" which I am sure, on reflection, he would not want to use. As I understand it, the National Energy Board is ready to hear any representations. These may be limited by lack of funds; many of us are limited in that way too. However, I would say to the hon. gentleman that the government does not intend to contribute public funds for this particular purpose.

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HOUSING

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF NEW PROGRAM

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the government's \$500

[Mr. Sharp.]

grant to new home owners has been extended to December 31 of this year in so far as occupancy only is concerned, what sort of program does the minister propose to replace the present program? Will the new comprehensive housing program be introduced into the House, what are the details of such a program, and when will the program be put into effect?

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the minister, in attempting to answer, will skip the part of the question concerning the details of the program.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I hope to be making an announcement next week, and if I indicated what the announcement was now I would be making the announcement this week.

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● (1440)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

POSSIBILITY OF MORE STRINGENT BAIL PROVISIONS THAN THOSE IN BILL C-71

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of public concern about the increase in crime and the fact that Bill C-71 calls for tougher laws in relation to applications for bail, will the Minister of Justice now advise the House whether he intends to amend the law to a greater extent than called for in Bill C-71, particularly in view of his recent statement to the effect that he intends to toughen up the regulations in respect of these bail applications?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there are important provisions in Bill C-71 and discussions are taking place among leaders of the House regarding the passage of that and other bills from this House into committee so we can deal with them. I would hope that Bill C-71 can get to the committee quickly. As to whether I intend to amend Bill C-71 further, at this point this is still a matter of consideration.

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CRIMINAL CODE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON SEPARATE BILL TO DEAL WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. In light of the fact the Minister of Justice has admitted that his jurisdiction extends to bringing in amendments to the code, and in light of the fact the Solicitor General has responsibility for the commutation of death sentences to life sentences, will the minister now without equivocation answer the question I asked earlier in the week, namely, if he brings in a bill to abolish capital punishment will he assure the House that it will not be mixed in with amendments to other laws, particularly an amendment involving gun control?