

Oral Questions

Mr. Epp: In Afghanistan?

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member asks about Afghanistan. I am as distressed about what happened in Afghanistan as I am distressed about some things that have happened in Central America.

An Hon. Member: What about Poland?

Mr. Trudeau: We are not a great power. We have this luxury. If Hon. Members want to support the United States in defining Central America as a sphere of influence for them, or at least an area of strategic interest, they have to do the same thing about the Soviet Union which is also a great power.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Madam Speaker: I have the honour of drawing the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of a delegation of Soviet parliamentarians, headed by Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS—NEWSPAPER REPORT OF PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, it may well be that *The Toronto Star* article was put together in a disjointed fashion, and it may well be that the Prime Minister may be correct on the misrepresentation of his answers as a result, but does he not believe that the assertion or suggestion that President Reagan's more warlike stance justifies those dealing with his administration in coming to the conclusion that it is deserving of a lack of trust and not in keeping with the kind of even-handed approach he encourages us to believe the Canadian Government should be taking with respect to both these powers? If he uses the expressions, on the one hand, with respect to the Reagan administration, I am wondering whether he would be so rash as to use the same kind of statements with respect to the Soviets.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I can only say that if the Hon. Member and his Party are of the view that there have not been some excessive statements coming from the United States administration—

Mr. Nielsen: Warlike.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Madam Speaker, including the demonstration explosion of a Soviet machine, perhaps over the North Sea—

An Hon. Member: A Soviet machine?

● (1500)

Mr. Trudeau: A Soviet nuclear engine. If they do not think that there have been some excessive statements by some people in authority in the United States that the United States could win a nuclear war, I would say their Party is, as usual, vastly out of sync, not only with every European leader I happen to know, but also with most of the Canadian people.

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NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

ILLEGAL GATING PROCEDURE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Yesterday the Supreme Court ruled 9-0 from the bench that the National Parole Board's practice of arbitrarily gating certain prisoners released on mandatory supervision is totally illegal. In light of this expected decision, what action does the Minister intend to take in this House to provide a firm, carefully drafted legislative foundation for gating which, while recognizing the very great difficulty in predicting violence, would set out very clearly defined criteria, and provide for full judicial review on the merits?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member characterizes the decision as one which must have been very easy for the Supreme Court of Canada to reach. I simply remind him that there were conflicting decisions of courts of appeal and of the Federal Court of this country. It was on that basis that the Supreme Court of Canada agreed to hear the case.

As to taking legislative steps to establish gating as a valid power of the National Parole Board, the Hon. Member should look to see what is happening in the other place where, some time ago, I took Bill S-32 which now contains provisions which validate and provide a legislative framework for gating, including along with it procedural safeguards that, in the opinions I have, fully comply with requirements of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, it took the Supreme Court about ten minutes to arrive at that decision.

Instead of trying to amend the legislation before the Senate, which has been unanimously condemned by witnesses and may even be rejected by the Senate Committee, will the Minister bring forward a Bill in this House containing the essential elements of precise criteria and full judicial review on the