

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Baldwin:** Having in mind the movements of this government toward authoritarianism, I am not asking the question with any levity at all. Will the Prime Minister become serious about this and reassure the public, which is very concerned about the movements of this government, that there is no attempt on the part of the government and the Prime Minister in any way to try to secure media management or control?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, when the opposition makes it quite clear in its party program that it is opposed to media control, then the hon. member can stand and ask that question.

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**PENITENTIARIES****IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON REFORM—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of the widespread support among Canadians generally for the recommendations contained in the subcommittee report on the penitentiary system in Canada, would the minister inform the House when we might expect a statement to be forthcoming with respect to the implementation of the recommendations contained in that report?

[Translation]

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** I thank the hon. member for his question, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to inform him that I have almost finished considering the most interesting recommendations made by the parliamentary subcommittee, and that I intend to table my answer in the House on Friday August 5.

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[English]

**INDIAN AFFAIRS****ALLEGATION OF DIVERSION OF FUNDS BY MANITOBA INDIAN BROTHERHOOD—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I gave him notice of this question last week. Is the minister in a position today to report on the allegations made by Mr. Tony Walker, formerly employed by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, regarding certain irregularities relating to possible diversion of government funds given to the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood for research?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, officials in my department have been investigating this matter for about nine months now. They started the investigation long before the allegations were recently made. We see nothing of the nature of what was described by the person concerned, but there were some problems with financing, and we are working those out.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, my information is that when Mr. Walker brought this to the attention of the assistant deputy minister, the department then referred the matter back to the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. I wonder if the minister can explain why his department asked the brotherhood to investigate itself on this particular matter, and further, whether the minister is prepared to appoint an independent auditor to verify expenditures made by the brotherhood, as stipulated in the memorandum of agreement between the government and the brotherhood, especially in light of the fact that Mr. Tony Walker was fired from the brotherhood immediately after bringing this to the attention of the assistant deputy minister.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, that is not correct. The matter was being investigated by officials of the department, including some from Ottawa, and not by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. However, the financial problems are being worked out between the officials of my department and the MIB. As I said earlier, the matters in question were not brought to light by Mr. Walker. They were known for some time. As a matter of fact, I met with the executive of the MIB several times long before Mr. Walker made his statement.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, there is an agreement between the MIB and the department which provides for the appointment of an independent auditor to look into the affairs of the MIB relating to government funds. Will the minister now undertake to have an independent auditor investigate the records with respect to expenditures and with respect to the allegations raised by Mr. Walker?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, if that has not already been done, I will look into that possibility.

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**INDUSTRY****SYDNEY STEEL—REQUEST FOR AID IN MODERNIZING PLANT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister, who will recall that last week I asked him whether the government of Nova Scotia or SYSCO made any specific proposal or request to the government of Canada respecting the modernization of the Sydney Steel plant which, of course, is of great concern to the people of Cape Breton and northern Nova Scotia. The Prime Minister said he would take the question as notice. Can he now give me an answer on this very important situation?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I may have received an answer. I have not read it yet, if I have received it.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how long the House will be sitting, but in view of the importance of the question to a substantial number of Canadians, if the Prime