

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Leggatt:** A supplementary question for the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise the House if there is a specific study group dealing with the question of firearms and whether it has made any report to him? If so, does he intend to recommend changes in the Criminal Code, to the cabinet through the Minister of Justice that would deal with firearms?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, a group of officials in my department is studying the effectiveness of our present gun laws and is looking at gun laws in other countries. We have not yet had a report on that.

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[Translation]

**PENITENTIARIES****COWANSVILLE—REQUEST FOR ENFORCEMENT OF LAW FOR MURDER OF INSTRUCTOR**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I wish also to direct a question to the Solicitor General.

A few days ago a murder was committed at the federal prison in Cowansville when a young instructor aged 34 was savagely killed with a hammer. Has the Solicitor General been advised of the circumstances surrounding this murder, and does he intend to recommend the application of the legislation as approved by Parliament?

[English]

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I would agree with the hon. member that this was a most horrible crime and we extend our condolences to the family of the killed instructor. At the present time a suspect is under arrest by the Quebec provincial police and an investigation is being made into this matter. In addition, the regional director for the penitentiary service in Quebec is to have an administrative inquiry. With respect to the latter part of the question, I cannot make any recommendation on this case since it has not yet gone to trial.

[Translation]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I should like to ask the minister what he will do, after having offered the victim's family his condolence and received the investigation report, among hundreds of others.

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[English]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF ARDA PROGRAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—WILLINGNESS OF PROVINCE TO ENTER INTO OTHER AGREEMENTS**

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George—Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In response to a question put by one of my colleagues yesterday the minister neglected to report

whether or not it was possible for him to negotiate an extension to the ARDA program which has helped the native community of British Columbia and which was due to expire at the end of March. May I ask the minister also if during his deliberations in British Columbia the 15 per cent to 16 per cent unemployment rate in central and northern British Columbia, which is a result of the declining lumber market, was discussed and if the British Columbia government declared itself ready to enter into agreements with his department which serves other parts of Canada so well?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could make a slight correction in the preamble to the hon. member's question. What I was referring to yesterday was an extension of the regional development incentives program. This does not mean that ARDA will not be extended. I was making that statement yesterday because preliminary arrangements have still to be completed. On the question of the area to which the hon. member alludes where the lumber industry is in trouble, I proposed to the government of British Columbia, and I think it was accepted, that we should explore the possibility of establishing some form of incentives program which would apply to the forest industries or some aspects of them in British Columbia. I assigned officials to the negotiations when I was there two weeks ago, and I am hopeful that we will be able to sign an agreement in the federal context I have just outlined within a few weeks at the outside.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****ALLEGED AGREEMENT CANADA WOULD NOT RETALIATE FOR BOARDING OF "GREENPEACE III" BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES**

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs is a followup to the question that the hon. member for New Westminster put to him yesterday. In view of a statement made by General Christian, officer in charge of the French air force in Tahiti and other members of the French government that the Canadian government gave them assurances that there would not be any interference from the Canadian government when they boarded Mr. McTaggart's boat, can the minister advise the House if he has been able to confirm that story? If so, who was the minister in charge at the time who gave the assurance to the French government?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm the story because no such conversation took place between officials of this department and the French authorities.

**REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DOCUMENTS EXCHANGED BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA CONCERNING "GREENPEACE III"**

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Would he be prepared, on behalf of the govern-