

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think I can say yes. The Canadian government and the Department of National Defence in particular, which has most of the personnel there, are very much aware of the problem and are taking all necessary precautions.

An hon. Member: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hesitate to allow supplementaries on this subject. Hon. members will appreciate that there is to be a debate later today on this very subject.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

TEMPORARY RELEASE PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Solicitor General a question. In light of the fact that a man by the name of Head has been convicted of the murder of Tanya Busch while he was on one of those temporary absences from prison, a man who had been charged on four different occasions with raping girls between the ages of six and seven and who was released without any supervision over him, would the minister agree to have a judicial inquiry into the temporary release system which has sabotaged the good parole system set up by the Diefenbaker government?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, changes were made in the temporary absence system last summer as a result of that and other events. As a matter of fact, dangerous sexual offenders are no longer allowed out on temporary absence under any condition. Also, last summer a task force was set up to study all questions relating to temporary absence and parole, under the chairmanship of Judge Hugessen, and I received its report just before Christmas. That report is under study by officials in my department at present, and a report on it will be made to the House shortly.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. In light of the fact that when I first raised this question in the House he asked me on that occasion if I was linking the two together, the release of Head and the murder of the girl, and in light of the fact that the law has now linked them, does he not consider under these circumstances that he should have a judicial inquiry into the temporary release program? I am sure the Prime Minister recalls the Head murder case.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, I recall it very well, but at least until the appeal procedures have expired I would not subscribe to the statement made by the hon. member. As to the part of his question about an inquiry into temporary release, I think the Solicitor General answered that very thoroughly.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York-Simcoe who has a supplementary to his earlier question.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

POSSIBLE EXCEEDING OF CEILING IN ACT—TIMING OF LEGISLATION TO CORRECT SITUATION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of his answer to my earlier question that indeed a ceiling increase is needed, and in view of his predecessor's comment that he anticipated that there would be some \$500 million worth of financings agreed to by the Export Development Corporation during 1972, does the minister now agree with an official of that corporation when he says that he feels this is an emergency measure that is coming before the House and, if he does, would the minister explain why it was not brought before the House last summer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I take exception to two aspects of the question asked by the hon. member. The question may be important and interesting, but the hon. member is asking the minister whether he agrees with a statement made by an official outside the House. That clearly is not in order. Perhaps later on, if he has a further opportunity, the hon. member might rephrase his question. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

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TRADE

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO INCREASE EXPORTS TO JAPAN—REDUCTION OF RESTRICTIONS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary in the area of export credits. In light of a recent study commissioned by the Canada-Japan Trade Council in which Canadian inability and apathy toward taking advantage of tremendous opportunities to increase exports to Japan are linked with what is generally felt to be cumbersome and often inadequate government programs to aid exporters, could the minister tell the House what initiatives he is now planning to remedy this situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister will be allowed to reply briefly, but the hon. member is asking for a statement which normally should be made on motions. The minister might indicate whether he proposes to make a statement; otherwise the question would hardly be in order.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think it important to put on the record that Canadian exports to Japan last year increased by 15 per cent. There has been a major export drive by Canada so far as Japan is concerned. It was started by the former minister, my predecessor, with a