Oral Questions

blood is free from viral infections, hepatitis and other viral diseases?

Mr. Lalonde: The regulations I am referring to would not deal with blood for sale inside Canada. There is doubt whether we had any power to exercise such safety control over products for export, and we are therefore looking into this matter very carefully.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR DETAILS CONCERNING INTRODUCTION OF PEACE AND SECURITY LEGISLATION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General. In light of the fact that I have been advised that the peace and security legislation will be brought in and that there is a definite date set, can the Solicitor General, in the absence of the Attorney General of Canada, give us that definite date? Will he also advise the House whether he or the Minister of Justice will be presenting the bill?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): As the Minister of Justice said recently, there will be two bills introduced with the announcement of the peace and security legislation, one bill will deal with capital punishment and the other will deal with all the other measures. I will introduce the bill on capital punishment and the Minister of Justice will introduce the other bill.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, one supplementary question should clear the air. Can the Solicitor General assure us that the changes in the Parole Act or in the regulations on day passes will be in the peace and security bill rather than in the bill to abolish capital punishment which, as the Solicitor General has said on several occasions in the House, qualifying it with some adjectives, will be brought in separately and apart from any other measure in the Criminal Code?

Mr. Allmand: There may be some misunderstanding. The bill on capital punishment will also deal with the alternatives put forward to the present regime for murder. Whenever we have had a bill on capital punishment, that has happened. In other words, the bill on capital punishment will deal with proposals we suggest for those who are convicted of murder, including the rules on parole and imprisonment which will apply to them. But all other changes in the Parole Act that apply generally will be in the second bill introduced by my colleague.

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CITIZENSHIP

REQUEST THAT VACANCIES IN TORONTO CITIZENSHIPS COURTS BE FILLED—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State whether he would strengthen soon the manpower at the Toronto citizenship court by filling long overdue vacancies and appointing [Mr. Rynard.] more staff to clear the backlog of more than 3,000 citizenship certificates and applications, as Canadian citizenship delayed is a denial of citizenship rights and privileges to eligible and qualified residents of Canada.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member. It is a serious problem in Toronto. It is a reflection of the success of our citizenship promotion program. It will need a complement of more people.

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF MEASURE TO PROVIDE GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Since Quebec's Social Affairs Minister has recently declared that, in his view, the guaranteed annual income program cannot be implemented until 1978 and even later because economic and financial conditions will not allow it, can the minister tell the House whether or not he agrees with this statement and if not, will he put forward a bill aiming at an earlier implementation of this program so as to correct the injustices which have been caused by the social measures now existing?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I have said on many occasions, our prime objective is to complete the review of social security and to come to an agreement with the provinces as early as possible. I hope it will be reached by next summer. Any legislation which might result from such an agreement will have to be presented at a later stage, probably during the next session. Now, I do not think it is realistic to expect such a program to be in effect this year or the next. As for the following years we shall have to wait and see what has developed.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Inasmuch as the minister I quoted did specify that even if the federal government and the provinces come to an agreement, this program could not be implemented, as I said earlier, before 1978—he specified this—and even several years later, does he think this should be the case or that efforts are being made to come to an agreement only on a contingency or that we really want to implement the program?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that all governments want to implement such a program as soon as possible. As I indicated in a previous answer in this House, the federal government proposes that this program be administered by the provinces. So it is the provinces that will have to decide when the program is to be implemented in each province. As far as the federal government is concerned, we made an extremely generous offer concerning cost sharing, and I think financial motives should not