

Mr. Trudeau: It was not fashionable to say that a few months ago, but it is becoming fashionable now. I am sure Your Honour will hear more about it. I think they should tell us if they want to have an election before we deal with the pipeline bill, or after. If they want to have an election before, let them say so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Right now.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the opposition has demonstrated already its attitude and its desire to co-operate in dealing with matters affecting the economy, as exemplified by our allowing passage of the employment tax credit bill in one day, the Prime Minister must accept responsibility for the six months' delay in bringing in that bill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: I should like to ask the Prime Minister, on behalf of the over one million unemployed Canadians, if he does not have the guts to bring in a budget, does he have the guts to call an election?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Let's get on with it now, Pierre.

Mr. McGrath: The sooner, the better.

Mr. Paproski: Why wait for spring: do it now!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think the events of the past weeks have shown that the opposition can learn something from the feelings of the people, after having opposed the tax cuts before the House for some 20 days.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: Great stuff.

Mr. Trudeau: Then they got the message and they screwed up the courage to vote for another good government bill in one day. I hope they continue using that good example.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is pretty weak.

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PENITENTIARIES

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PRISON GUARDS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. In light of the procrastination and vacillation with reference to the reconstitution of the subcommittee of the committee on justice and legal affairs which deals with penitentiaries, and because there is now an emergency situation respecting penitentiaries across Canada, I should like to ask this very serious question: What

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investigation is being carried out now to meet this emergency and to make certain there will be no further tragic incidents such as the execution of a warden? What emergency legislation is there to protect correctional institution officers across this nation and preserve their morale?

[Translation]

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, first of all the hon. member brought to the attention of the House a very tragic event which happened yesterday in Montreal. As regards the tragic death of Archambault Institution Warden Michel Roy, I should simply like to offer his family my sympathy and the sympathy of the House, and to assure all employees of the Canadian penitentiary system that we are doing everything we can to help provincial authorities—and, we hope, municipal and police authorities in Montreal—to continue the inquiry and prosecute those who are responsible for this absolutely inexcusable and in fact very wild and very barbarous act.

● (1442)

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: I am sure every member of parliament wishes to express sympathy to the family, but condolences will not bring a public servant back to life. I will ask my question again. What emergency steps are being taken right now to protect correctional institution officers, not only in the penitentiary mentioned but in others, so that such tragic occurrences such as murder and the taking of hostages will not continue? There is a state of emergency in the whole penitentiary service. If the minister cannot see that, he cannot see anything.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out to the hon. member that his question did not make clear the fact that this tragic event took place, not close to the penitentiary but close to Mr. Roy's home. Under the circumstances, I would want to have more time in order to ascertain the circumstances exactly, not only the actual slaying but the circumstances and whatever evidence might be brought forward, prior to making any further comment on the matter.

Mr. Woolliams: I have one further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Assiniboia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POPLAR RIVER POWER PROJECT—FURNISHING OF INFORMATION TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is with respect to the Poplar River power project near the south Saskatchewan border with Montana. Can the minister