

PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—STEPS TO IMPROVE
LIVING CONDITIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. J. P. Cameron (High Park): My question is directed to the Minister of Justice, and I have sent him notice of it. What steps are being taken to improve living conditions at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, situated in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): There are very extensive programs under way in this regard following the fire which occurred at that penitentiary in mid-summer. I have a long statement here covering three pages, dealing with all the steps that are being taken, but I am quite sure you would not wish me to deliver it at this time.

Mr. Speaker: This more than convinces me that the question would have been better put on the order paper. I allowed the question because the hon. member had sent notice, but the reply obviously is going to be far too lengthy.

(Translation):

TRADE

SOUTH AMERICA—INQUIRY AS TO BARTER
ARRANGEMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Cote) asked whether the government was considering the possibility of trading goods with Brazil or other South American countries which are anxious to develop such an international trade policy.

The government itself does no international trading. Its function does not go beyond providing for exporters, through its policies, the most favourable trading opportunities. There is no official policy concerning barter and Canadians are free to indulge in it if they wish to.

(Text):

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ECCLES DIVORCE CASE—POSSIBLE PERJURY CHARGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice and ask him whether he can now, or when he will be able to, give a report to the house about the possibility that perjury may have been committed before the miscellaneous private bills committee a few years ago in the Eccles divorce case, which was referred to the minister for action?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, if you consider this a

Health and Welfare Act

proper question to be answered on orders of the day, I shall endeavour to do so. The matter has been referred, as is proper in this case, to the proper law enforcement authority, namely the attorney general of Ontario.

SONS OF FREEDOM—CONVERSATIONS WITH
PROVINCIAL ATTORNEY GENERAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arthur Laing (Vancouver South): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In the light of representations made to him and to the government of British Columbia by the civic authorities of the village of Hope, would he say whether he has had conversations with the attorney general of British Columbia on the matter of the Freedomite sect in that province?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, I have had no conversations with the attorney general of British Columbia.

Mr. Laing: May I ask a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: The minister's answer is no.

Mr. Laing: I wish to direct another question to the Minister of Justice. Would he undertake to the house to have some of his officials look into the conditions in that camp at Hope, where the Freedomites are?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): Mr. Speaker, that is not a matter of federal responsibility. If I were to adopt the suggestion made by the hon. member I would be guilty of an intrusion into affairs that fall under the jurisdiction of one or both of two other levels of government in this country.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH
AND WELFARE ACT

PROVISION FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WELFARE

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare) moved the third reading of Bill No. C-4, to amend the Department of National Health and Welfare Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my remarks will not be made at great length.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Howard: I am pleased to see I can say something which meets with the approval of hon. members. I regret that I was not able to be present during discussion on the earlier stages of the bill, and there are one or two points I would like to place on record with respect to it.

In recent years we have seen the growth of a body of opinion in Canada, most of it misdirected and erroneously guided, which is