

that assertion, has the Prime Minister checked with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs concerning the allegation made that he, in fact, had been the subject of electronic surveillance and that he, in fact, had been told about it later on?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, following a question along those lines yesterday, I did ask the Solicitor General to inquire into the matter. We agreed from the outset that such a serious allegation should be referred to the McDonald commission. I understand that Commissioner McDonald has indicated that he is seized of the matter.

● (1427)

As far as we are concerned, I wrote a letter to the Leader of the Opposition giving the same kind of assurance with regard to security matters as I believe was read by the leader of the New Democratic Party. I have checked today to make sure that the information supplied to me for the purpose of this letter was supplied by our security officials, and the answer is yes, so there is an apparent contradiction between the advice I received and the allegations contained in this affidavit. We are not in a position yet to indicate how this contradiction can be resolved. Of course, I have confidence in my advisers and in the RCMP, rather than in a third party who is making these allegations.

For greater security, however, the Solicitor General is having an inquiry made within the RCMP to ascertain if there is any substance to the allegations.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I can understand and accept part of the Prime Minister's answer when he says that the information was provided to him which formed the substance of his letter to the Leader of the Opposition, and the information that was provided to me, is being checked out: I fully accept that part of the answer.

My more specific question pertains to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It seems to me the answer to that question should not wait until we hear from the royal commission. Has the Prime Minister inquired of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to see whether, at the time he was solicitor general, he was informed by anyone that electronic surveillance had been undertaken against him under the auspices of the security service of the RCMP? If he had been told that surveillance had been carried out against him and the hon. member for Nickel Belt, as stated in the allegation, what did he do about it?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I understand some information did come to the previous solicitor general, Mr. Speaker, but I am not in a position to give exact dates. I want to assure the hon. member that I regard this matter very seriously. I also await the answer to this and other questions from the present Solicitor General, who told me just before the House met that he is pursuing the inquiry.

**Mr. Broadbent:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Given the assurance that the Prime Minister is having the

### Oral Questions

matter investigated, I would, personally, be very happy to leave it at that if he would tell me that the pending investigation by the Solicitor General and whatever checking he is doing himself would be communicated to us early next week. Will this particular aspect—namely, the involvement of the former solicitor general, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs—be reported to the House?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly ask the present Solicitor General to take that question into very serious consideration.

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[Translation]

### PENITENTIARIES

ARCHAMBAULT—REPLACEMENT OF MR. MARINEAU—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Solicitor General.

It was reported in the *Journal de Montréal* of February 21 last that Mr. Gérald Marineau who had succeeded Mr. Michel Roy as director of the Archambault Institute has been in turn succeeded by an administrative committee; the story also states, and I quote:

Since his appointment as director of the Archambault Institute, he (Mr. Marineau) had been the object of many threatening phone calls from unknown individuals, presumably from the Inmates Liberation Army.

I want to ask the minister whether he could confirm or deny that the new change in that institution's direction is a direct answer to the threats against Mr. Marineau?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to tell the honourable member that I appreciate very much, as I am sure do all employees of the Canadian Penitentiary Service, the motion he moved today under Standing Order 43 to show support for those public servants, and I want to thank him for that on their behalf. Now, Mr. Speaker, I can indicate to him that the measure we have taken to establish a committee for the Archambault Institute was an administrative decision dictated by the circumstances we are facing.

REQUEST CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BE APPLIED IN CERTAIN CASES

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question of the right hon. Prime Minister.

According to a public opinion poll made by a number of newspapers and involving 20,000 people, it would seem that 88.9 per cent of Canadians are for the reinstatement of capital punishment. This poll involved various classes of people as well as various types of crimes. I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in order to protect honest people and particularly prison guards and police forces, and to restore confidence in our judicial system, the government intends to introduce a bill during this or the next session requiring the House to vote again on the issue of capital punishment, in