

Order Paper Questions

Africa are changing hourly and getting worse hourly. The requirement for action is immediate.

We on this side of the House believe that it is important for Parliament to fully express not only its concern, but proposals and ideas for actions that should be taken. We believe that the opportune time for doing this is now. If we have to wait until August for a Commonwealth meeting, by that time the situation may have reached the point where it will be beyond recovery. We humbly ask you to accept our motion, Sir, so that Parliament, on behalf of the Canadian people, may express the deep-felt need for immediate and effective action by the Government at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will understand that my practice has been to announce a decision at this time, but I have to say, as the Hon. Member may know, that there were a number of other things happening this morning. I have not had the requisite time to think about this matter. I therefore propose to reserve for the moment and return to the House as quickly as I can.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I appreciate the circumstances which caused you to reserve on this matter but, it being Friday, you will understand that Hon. Members have to make plans with respect to weekend obligations.

I would like to make two points. First, Beauchesne's makes reference to the fact that the Chair would consult with House Leaders with respect to the timing of this debate. I do not share the view with respect to the urgency of this matter as I think the response of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has been clear, ongoing and continuous as indicated by answers he gave to questions put during Question Period today. There will be opportunity for debate.

Notwithstanding that, I would ask if it is possible to have a decision on this matter at the earliest moment because there is now a Standing Order before the House with respect to the extension of hours and, under the reform provisions of the Standing Orders, the idea is to expedite legislation and allow for sufficient discussion. If the Chair does decide to have a debate, I anticipate it would begin at the conclusion of today's proceedings and carry on from there. I think Hon. Members would like to be aware of this at the earliest possible moment so that they may cancel their reservations.

Mr. Speaker: I do appreciate the submission, but the Chair has to make a first decision. The Chair has to decide if the application conforms with the provisions of Standing Order 29 as written. Were the Chair to make that finding, the Hon. Member would then have the right to put the request to the House and the House would then have an option. At that point, there is a provision in the rules that allows the Chair to decide when the debate will be called. If that were to happen, there would be some consultation on timing. However, the Chair has not had sufficient time to answer the first question. I will return to the House as quickly as I can.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Pierre H. Vincent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 566 and 569.

[Text]

UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS—FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES

Question No. 566—**Mr. Howie:**

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, did inmates in federal penitentiaries avail themselves of university programs and, if so (a) how many (b) in which penitentiaries did such programs operate (c) what was the total cost of these programs (d) in what manner and to what extent were appropriate program objectives achieved as a result of these programs?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Yes. (a) For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, average full-time students: 204, average part-time students: 94.

(b) In the fiscal year ending March 31, 1986, university programs were offered at Laval Institution in Quebec; Prison for Women, Collins Bay and Millhaven Institutions in Ontario; Stony Mountain Institution in Manitoba; Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Saskatchewan; Bowden, Drumheller and Edmonton Institutions in Alberta; and Matsqui, William Head, Mountain and Kent Institutions in British Columbia. Furthermore, inmates could also avail themselves of correspondence courses at all other institutions across the country.

(c) Total cost for university programs in 85/86: \$881,000.

(d) Educational programs are intended to provide opportunities for academic advancement as well as personal development through goal setting and achievement. The pursuit and achievement of a university degree has been found to be a positive contributing factor to the rehabilitation of the inmate-students.

ACQUISITION OF NEW SHIPS

Question No. 569—**Mr. Howie:**

In 1986, does the Department of National Defence plan to place orders for the replacement or acquisition of new ships and, if so, how many?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): No.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The questions as enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered.

Mr. Vincent: I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.