

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, would the minister undertake to the House to investigate how Norway and Iceland—apart from GATT altogether; forget GATT; forget Geneva; forget the excuses—were successful in negotiating lower tariffs on fish products; and when the minister can, would he find out how they did it? I know they have better governments, but would he find out whether there are any other reasons?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONTINGENCY PLANS IN EVENT U.S. IMPOSE COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance in the absence of the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of External Affairs. In view of the importance of the fishing industry to Atlantic Canada, is the minister aware of any discussions that may have been held by the government with the premiers of Atlantic Canada concerning the government's contingency plans in the event the Americans proceed with countervailing duties on exports of Canadian groundfish products to the United States? If so, what steps will be taken so that Canadian fish products can remain competitive in the United States or sold to other markets? Is the minister aware of any response to this matter by the premiers of Atlantic Canada?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment had several conversations with the premiers of the Atlantic provinces who are interested in fisheries matters. I do not know whether they had particular discussions at this time. Of course, in spite of some threats which were allegedly made yesterday, namely by certain American people, on the situation of fisheries in Canada, I think that commercial relations between Canada and the United States are very good, and I do not think that the problem of fisheries interferes with the problem of trade negotiations between Canada and the United States.

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[*English*]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

LEGISLATION DEALING WITH YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It relates to the long-awaited legislation dealing with young offenders, an issue which has been kicking around here a good number of years in the Solicitor General's department, either aging like old wine or having long since turned to vinegar; we do not know because we have not heard anything. Have consultations with the provinces been completed? Has consensus been reached with each province in terms of this legislation and, if not, is there any target date by which the Solicitor General expects such consensus?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I fully agree with the hon. gentleman that this legislation has been in the mill for more than ten years and, indeed, it has come forward in one form or another several times. Hopefully, it will reach fruition within a short period of time.

An hon. Member: Another ten years.

Mr. Blais: The reason for the delay is exactly that which the hon. gentleman has identified, namely, that we have not yet completed our consultations with the provinces. Consultations with my counterparts, namely, those individuals in the provincial areas who are involved with justice, with corrections or young offenders, have taken place and their concurrence has generally been obtained. However, there is another area of interest; that is the area of provincial social services. Consultations in that area are not complete. I hope to receive the response of all ministers by June 30.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the final outcome of the consultative process, is it the Solicitor General's intention to proceed by way of legislation, or by way of a discussion paper, such as occurred seven or eight years ago, acknowledging that there are a number of individuals and groups within society other than governmental groups which have a direct interest and concern in this legislation?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing a meeting of judges who are involved with juvenile justice, I believe on July 18, in Montreal. At that time I will be making a policy declaration of some interest to the hon. gentleman. If he has not been invited, I will make sure that an invitation is sent to him.

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● (1432)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING KIDNAPPING OF DALILA MASCHINO

Mr. Ian Watson (Laprairie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the alleged kidnapping of Dalila Maschino. Has the department made representations? If it has, does it intend to continue making representations to the government of Algeria, expressing Canadian concern, as well as requesting a meeting of the parties on some neutral, third ground?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Montreal police has apparently completed its investigation on the matter. It is now up to the justice department of the province of Quebec to start the proceedings concerning this case. On the other hand, I would like to add that the civil servants of the department and of the Canadian embassy in Algiers put