

*Oral Questions*

investigation completed, to get its results, and then be able to answer questions in the House of the sort the hon. member just asked.

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. All previous reports done on the correctional service have had total secrecy. I would like to ask the assurance of the Prime Minister that this will be an open investigation and, more pertinently to the Prime Minister, rather than to the Solicitor General, since the present Solicitor General has had this office in the two years there has been a multimillion dollar riot in Matsqui, prison staff saying that they cannot have confidence in the warden; there has been a major breakout in Edmonton, as well as the entire Olson debacle. Now we have had a major tragedy at Archambault. Why is this man still the Solicitor General?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, in so far as the matter raised—

**Some hon. Members:** Why?

**Mr. Kaplan:** —is concerned, I indicated when I appeared before the justice committee that there had been some substantial improvements in the level of order in the institutions. I tabled statistics, which I am prepared to share again with the hon. member, that show that in the last two years there has been a substantial decline in major incidents in the institutions.

Although tragic events occur and human behaviour is not completely predictable, and we are dealing with the most violent, dangerous people in the country, who are incarcerated in these institutions, I think we can show that the Correctional Service of Canada has functioned very well under the circumstances.

● (1450)

I can also remind the hon. member that, throughout the incidents he has described, there has been a high level of concern and security for the surrounding community. For example, in the tragedy which occurred the day before yesterday, at no time was there any danger to the community surrounding the institution. Considering the stress, and the tragedy that was occurring within the walls, a considerable amount of credit can be given to the officers in the Correctional Service of Canada who valiantly performed during the incident.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR CONNE RIVER INDIANS IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. This past spring the

minister made commitments both to the Conne River Indian people and also to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He said that if negotiations with the Government of Newfoundland broke down, he would not have much choice but to get money to the Conne River Indian people directly. Negotiations have broken down, the Conne River people are completely without funding, and the minister appears to have welched on his commitment. Could he tell the House what he will do to back up his commitment and to see that the Conne River people get the funds intended for them?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Well, yes, Madam Speaker, but I am sure it is not the hon. member's intention to leave a false impression. The fact, as I hope the hon. member knows, is that the Indians at Conne River are receiving social assistance payments where this is required, the children are receiving an education and so on from the province, which is affording them the same social service benefits and infrastructure as people in the rest of the province. But with respect to our obligations under the agreement, the province has refused to flow the money or do whatever is necessary to trigger our obligations to the Indians of Conne River. To assist with respect to that aspect, I am quite prepared and do intend to meet with the appropriate minister of the Newfoundland government very soon.

**Mr. Manly:** More than simply meeting with the appropriate minister is required, Madam Speaker.

## REGISTRATION UNDER INDIAN ACT

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Justice officials have said that funds cannot be given directly because the Conne River people have never been officially registered as Indians. When will the minister act to give these people their due and register them under the Indian Act? Although the government is not afraid of Newfoundland when it comes to jurisdiction over offshore oil, why does it back down on a question of fundamental human rights for the Indian people?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, I have been prepared, as I explained in committee, to be sensitive to the concerns of the provincial government, not because of any fear of the provincial government—quite the contrary—but more on the basis that its assistance is required because it, too, has historically supplied funds in the millions of dollars for the social and economic welfare of the Indian people of Newfoundland. Before I take actions which are against the wishes of that government, I must be careful, because it has indicated that I should seriously consider, as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, one of the alternatives; that is, if I take certain actions of which it does not approve, the province will withdraw all funding to the Indian people. That may be something that the hon. member would like to avoid. I know I would.