

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

PROPOSAL THAT CASUALTY AND GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANIES BE BROUGHT UNDER BOARD CONTROL

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance—the Prime Minister probably gave him notice of it since I asked the question of the Prime Minister last week while the minister was away at the Dominion-Provincial Conference. Has the Minister of Finance considered the recommendation of the Anti-Inflation Board that the casualty and general insurance companies which collectively lost over \$400 million last year and would therefore seem to be outside the jurisdiction of the Anti-Inflation Board should in any event be brought under the board's control?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): It is true the picture as a whole indicates a loss position but individual companies have been in a profit-making position. The government has considered the recommendation of the Anti-Inflation Board and I anticipate an order in council on this question next week.

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PENITENTIARIES

PRINCE ALBERT—REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS IN INSTITUTION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): In connection with the matter I raised yesterday with the Solicitor General, I should now like to direct a further question to him. Yesterday he said the inmates in Prince Albert penitentiary who had been on the sit-down had gone back to their cells and that all was reasonably well and being investigated by, I think, three civil servants. I would point out that at the very time he was saying this, or almost the same time, while the sit-down was ending, a dig-in was continuing and they had dug a tunnel to within 25 feet of safety. In other words, the situation was serious and illustrates the need for an independent examination of what is taking place. Will the minister not give consideration, particularly in view of the representation of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan that things are serious because of the failure of the department to appoint a judge to look into this matter so that there will be no cover up by civil servants?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): It is true that during the sit-down strike a number of inmates, not all of them, were involved in digging a tunnel in an attempt to escape. I might say that although they had dug about 60 feet, they were far from freedom.

An hon. Member: Twenty-five feet away.

Mr. Allmand: They were 25 feet from the wall but what they did not know was that the wall extends into the ground some ten feet; they would have had a difficult time getting past it through a tunnel or in any other way. It was a lot of work for nothing. As mentioned by the right hon. member we have set up an internal inquiry to look into this matter. I will await that report. If the report is not

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satisfactory and we do not get enough information I will consider other means of dealing with the matter.

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● (1130)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUGGESTED CONFISCATION OF EARNINGS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS—POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF LEDAIN COMMISSION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In asking it I also want to make a positive suggestion. I have noted in the news media that there have been cases where people who have been trafficking in hard drugs have been assessed by the income tax officials. If the department is able to assess the amount of money that these hard drug traffickers are making, would the minister consider whether there is any legislation available that would enable him to confiscate all of this money? This is the one of the most demoralizing criminal rackets today and is one of the great causes of and contributors to crime.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I found the same story that the hon. member refers to rather interesting, to say the least. I have been examining it in light of the amendments that we made in Bill C-71 in regard to the provisions relating to the proceeds of crime; and I have also been examining it to see whether those provisions could apply to such cases.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is there any policy existing that will change any laws relating to drug trafficking or which will implement any of the recommendations of the LeDain Commission, which report cost several million dollars and seems to be gathering dust?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, as to whether or not legislation will be introduced, I think the hon. member appreciates that this will be announced in due course in the usual way.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE RADIOACTIVE DANGERS AT ELLIOT LAKE

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that uranium mines come under federal jurisdiction, what steps are being taken to ensure that authority from the Atomic Energy Control Board is granted automatically to the occupational safety and health department of the Department of Labour to make on the spot inspections to ensure that radioactive dangers at the uranium mines at Elliot Lake are eliminated?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that there is very close co-ordination between the Department of Labour, the