

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. The minister should be given the opportunity to reply to the question.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Goyer: The whole question was referred to the director of that institution, Mr. Brennan, and he gave his final approval.

That has been done in accordance with the rules of the Canadian Penitentiary Service. Consequently, at least 14 persons did take part in that decision. And they were unanimous.

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL PENITENTIARY—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF
OTHER DOCUMENTS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister a supplementary question.

Are there other documents, such as another request by Mr. Geoffroy, that include the decisions made by the authorities and, if so, would the Solicitor General be prepared to table them in the House?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, quite obviously the decisions that have been made have been put on record. As to whether those documents should be tabled, that would be, in my opinion, an unfortunate precedent and I certainly hesitate to do it. I wonder why the hon. member challenges my word.

[*English*]

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps I shall be better able to express myself in English on this point of order, Mr. Speaker. It is only a guilty conscience which could suggest I was questioning the minister's honesty.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member says he has a point of order. I hope he will express it.

Mr. Lewis: With great respect, I do not often abuse the rules and I do not intend to do so now. I think I am entitled to the opportunity to say to the Solicitor General, through you, that only a guilty conscience could have suggested that my question in any way impugned his honesty. In view of the disclosures in the documents to which I have referred, when everyone concerned, the director, the head of the education department, the chaplain, the social service worker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member might indicate the basis of his point of order. It seems to me he is entering upon a debate with the minister. He should indicate why he feels there is a point of order and I will make a ruling on it.

Mr. Lewis: There are really two points involved. Perhaps it would have taken less time had I been permitted to finish my remarks. The first is that my question did not impugn the veracity of the minister in any way. The second concerns the tabling of further documents. I say that in view of the fact the documents the minister has tabled show that everyone concerned assumed that the marriage would take place inside the penitentiary, and in view of the fact that the marriage was, in the event, allowed to take place outside, with the consequences of which everyone is aware, it is only right and proper that a

[*Mr. Goyer.*]

Member of Parliament should request the minister to table and that the minister should table all other documents connected with the matter so that we may know what happened.

Mr. Speaker: That is still not a point of order.

[*Translation*]

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL PENITENTIARY—REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Considering that the whole Geoffroy affair is becoming more and more obscure and that, obviously, the minister finds it difficult to give any information, I would like to know why he persists in refusing to have an impartial judicial inquiry made into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: That question is surely out of order. The hon. member wants to know why the minister stubbornly refuses to make such a decision. In those terms, the question is surely out of order.

Mr. Asselin: I would like to redraft my question, Mr. Speaker.

Does the minister feel that, in order to settle this matter, an impartial judicial inquiry should be ordered?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing obscure in this whole affair. The truth has been stated. If the hon. member does not believe me, Standing Orders may be invoked, and I am willing to abide by them.

In any event, I believe it has been admitted that a mistake has been made and, unfortunately, following this incident, the success of a progressive program within our prison system will be compromised, because a mistake has been made, and I ask what facts—

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL PENITENTIARY—INQUIRY RESPECTING CONTENTS
OF DOCUMENTS TABLED

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General.

Since Mr. Geoffroy was actually convicted of strangling his first wife and was granted parole for the explicit purpose of remarrying, could the Solicitor General explain the content of some of the documents he tabled? First of all, were psychiatrists consulted, and how many times? If so, what did they recommend? Were their services requested by the Parole Board or by officials of the penitentiary?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): There have not necessarily been consultations with psychiatrists. There were consultations with religious authorities who approved the marriage.

[*English*]

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL PENITENTIARY—METHOD OF TAKING DELIVERY
OF PASSPORT

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Secretary of State