

periodically, almost every three months, and go over an agenda of items of concern. That particular matter was not on our most recent agenda. However, I am certainly willing to discuss it with the representatives of the union.

I approved a policy of replacing professional members of the CSC with part-time people in areas where no threat at all is to be presented to the security of the institution. I challenge the Hon. Member to relate the kinds of jobs replacements he has referred to with the kinds of problems that exist in the institution. The manning of a tower by any person who is qualified to do that, does not bear on the possibility of excessive drugs in the institution.

I am very concerned about the escalating costs in the past of the Correctional Service of Canada. During this period of restraint I have taken special steps in the institution to try to bring costs down. Using commissionaires who are well qualified to do the job they are given, rather than using highly trained professionals of the CSC to do jobs which do not require professional training particularly, is a very important way of saving money for the taxpayer.

● (1150)

PERIMETER SECURITY

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, what we are dealing with is not economics; we are talking about human lives. For the Minister to suggest that we have people in penitentiaries who are not fully qualified is incomprehensible. Everyone who works in a penitentiary, such as Millhaven especially, should be well qualified. That is very important, whether they are back-up people or whatever they are. We are not just talking about economics; we should be talking about the security of the inmates and the people with families who work there.

My supplementary question concerns perimeter security, Mr. Speaker. There have been suggestions that there will be fewer people in guard towers on perimeter security because of the new electronic surveillance equipment. I have been told by people who work there that this equipment is not functioning very well at all because of weather conditions in that area. I should like to know what the Minister is doing to make sure that the perimeter area is secure, and if he has plans for further reducing the number of people in these towers.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member is genuinely concerned about this, I do not know why he does not show up at the meetings of the Justice Committee where such matters are discussed. I took the case for perimeter intrusion detection electronic devices to that Committee and I think I was able to satisfy a great many of the reasonable Members who attended that, in a lot of cases, electronic surveillance is more effective than surveillance only by people, without electronic surveillance, as has been done in the past. I think the Hon. Member could

learn a lot by attending that Committee. One thing he would find is that no measures have been introduced, even to save money—absolutely no measures—that would increase the risk to a community or to the staff who work in an institution, or even to the inmates.

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INDUSTRY

PETROCHEMICAL TASK FORCE REPORT

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. There is a need to create jobs, and the petrochemical industry has that potential. Is the Government prepared to consider the recommendations of the task force on petrochemicals in a favourable way? Will he announce whether he is prepared to forgo the up-front taxation on the feedstock, especially to allow a more market responsive taxation system to be put into place?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, not long ago we received a report from a task force on petrochemicals that was set up by the Government. This report was received by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Our officials are examining the report and its implications, and we shall be happy to inform the Hon. Member as soon as we have finished studying the report and Cabinet has made a decision.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Supplementary. A short supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: A short supplementary. The Hon. Member for St. John's East.

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration who is sitting next to the Minister of Finance. Perhaps he might be able to explain to the House why, more than five weeks after the Budget, he has not yet been able to utilize the \$150 million made available to him by his colleague in the last Budget for—

Mr. Speaker: That has nothing to do with the original question. This is not a supplementary. It has nothing to do with it. The Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette.

Mr. Trudeau: Learn the rules.

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AGRICULTURE

RED BEEF STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture about the red