

is charged with maintaining sufficient military forces and equipment to meet our obligations to NATO and NORAD. We are fulfilling that responsibility to the best of our abilities, and will continue to do so.

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#### YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT

##### AMENDMENTS REQUESTED

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. The Young Offenders Act was a major change in the juvenile justice system but, inevitably, the need for some legislative amendments has arisen. Will the Minister bring forward the necessary amendments to make that law effective, or is he content to allow it to become a political football by not responding to the changes that are needed?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I may have missed something, but was the hon. gentleman who posed the question not the Solicitor General? If he thought there were problems with the Act, why did he not amend the Act while he was Solicitor General?

The answer to his question is certainly yes, where there are problems in the Act I intend to amend it. In the meantime I intend to hold full consultations with professionals who are involved in the field and with the provinces to ensure that when we bring a package forward it will be a comprehensive one which meets the needs of Canadians.

##### REQUEST FOR EARLY INTRODUCTION

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, while I agree that it might be desirable to have discussions that lead to comprehensive amendments being brought forward, some of the changes that are required are now the subject of a consensus among Attorneys General of the provinces and the Ministers knows that. Why will he not at least bring forward—

**Mr. Crosbie:** You didn't listen to them.

**Mr. Kaplan:**—the minimum number of changes which have emerged as being necessary now that the law is in effect, in order to make that law work and avoid it becoming the political football which it seems it is becoming due to his inaction and failure to bring in amendments?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, if there is a Solicitor General who is starting to listen to the provinces, that is certainly something new since the retirement of the hon. gentleman who has posed the question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beatty:** Mr. Speaker, I fully intend to have consultations with the provinces and with people in the private sector who are involved in the treatment field for young offenders, and with the police and others. I think it would be worth while

#### Oral Questions

to ensure that when we bring a package forward it is comprehensive and deals with all of the problems in order to ensure that we do not nickel and dime the Act to death with a series of ill thought out amendments. One commitment that I certainly do make is that, unlike the hon. gentleman during his tenure as Solicitor General, I intend to listen and to consult.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

#### PEACE

##### REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET MOVEMENT FOR PEACE REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, since both our Ministers responsible for External Affairs are on duty elsewhere, and since I have a supplementary to the question put by the Hon. Member for Spadina, perhaps I could direct mine to the Deputy Prime Minister.

In view of the obvious importance of promoting peace through all possible means, will he recommend to his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to at least meet with the representatives of the Peace Movement, Mrs. Claire Bonenfant, Mrs. Francine Fournier and Bishop Adolphe Proulx?

[English]

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly bring the suggestion made by the Hon. Member to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he returns. I would draw his attention, however, to the fact that was only very recently that the Prime Minister met personally with members of the peace movement here in Ottawa.

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#### LABOUR CONDITIONS

##### PLIGHT OF UNEMPLOYED

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I had originally planned to ask a question about the unemployment problems faced by the fishermen in Newfoundland who have not worked enough this year. However, I will direct my question to the Minister of State for Finance. In answer to the Member for Essex-Windsor she said that she can find more billions of dollars as the economy improves. Why can the Government not find more billions of dollars for workers who are unemployed? Why can those fishermen not get jobs? Why are there bank bail-outs, tax write-offs, et cetera? Why are there not jobs?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Sit down, you nitwit.

**Miss MacDonald:** Why don't you ask me about that?