

● (1440)

Mr. Coates: Would the Solicitor General not agree that the closure of these two institutions and the transfer of a great many inmates to the maritime provinces from other parts of Canada have resulted in the tremendous overcrowding at both Dorchester and Springhill with the result, for instance, that at Springhill the young offenders aspect that was carried out there has had to be set aside in order to make it into a general institution and the minimum security inmates now have nowhere to go and must stay in the institutions with—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the minister might reply briefly to the question which was perhaps approaching argument rather than questioning.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, when I was in the Maritimes during the Easter recess I visited the Springhill institution. I did not find that there were any major problems there. I met with all groups and they did not indicate any major problems. There has been no change in the programs at Springhill. It is still a medium security institution and medium programs are in process. The living unit program is being introduced there as well. I think everything is all right at Springhill. The problem is basically at Dorchester, and I agree with the member that the problem there is due to the large transfer from the west in addition to the 100 new maximum security inmates from the maritime area.

PROVISION OF NEW MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTION FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I have a supplementary following the same line of questioning, Mr. Speaker. About a year and a half or two years ago a maximum security institution was planned for British Columbia and money was allocated by parliament at that time for the building of that institution, but the government across the way vetoed it. There was some criticism of the architecture. In light of that fact and in light of the overcrowding, particularly that caused by moving prisoners from the west to the east, would the Solicitor General look into the matter and see if the architecture could be changed and the money allocated used to build the maximum security institution planned by the former commissioner?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, it is correct that a maximum security institution was planned for British Columbia but because of the criticism that was levelled against that type of institution—it was a Millhaven type of institution—the plan was suspended. As a result, the former solicitor general set up the Mohr Commission to develop a new plan. That work has been completed and we are now trying to find a site in British Columbia for this new maximum security institution. We were going to place it near the present British Columbia penitentiary but the people of New Westminster did not want to accept the institution there so we are looking for another site.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member, after which I will recognize the hon.

Oral Questions

member for Oshawa-Whitby for a supplementary on the second question and also the hon. member for Hamilton West and others for a series of supplementaries on the second subject, which will take us close to the end of the question period.

Mr. Woolliams: I will be very brief, Mr. Speaker. In light of the difficulty the minister is now having with the various institutions at all levels, medium, minimum and maximum, would he give an undertaking to expedite this project, use the money that was allocated by parliament and show leadership in this field, thus avoiding the difficulty we are having in Canada today in the administration of law?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, we are expediting this matter but in the last year it has been very difficult to get a community to accept a maximum security institution. We want to co-operate as much as possible with the municipalities where these institutions are placed. I might say that in the first place New Westminster was ready to accept the institution but the council, after further consideration, asked us not to place it on the same site as the present institution. We are now working with them to find a new site.

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TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN FREIGHT RATES POLICY TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ATLANTIC PROVINCES AND LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and concerns the persistent high levels of unemployment in the Atlantic region. In view of the high level of discrimination in freight rates in Canada which weighs against the industrial development of the Atlantic provinces, can the minister assure the House that he is giving consideration to changing the transportation freight rate policy to remove this discrimination against the Atlantic provinces and, incidentally, against western Canada as well?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am presently in discussion with the premiers of the Atlantic provinces on this very subject.

An hon. Member: When are you going to do something?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West on a supplementary.

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IMMIGRATION

ALLEGED PREMATURE DEPORTATION OF MALLAPPA REDDY

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is not a supplementary but I know you said yesterday you would recognize me today. Pursuant to that I should like to ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he has had an opportunity to