

Oral Questions

PENITENTIARIES

FAILURE OF JOHN CHARRON TO RETURN TO COLLINS
BAY FOLLOWING RELEASE ON ONE-DAY PASS—
RECONSIDERATION OF PAROLE POLICY

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General with reference to John Charron, a prisoner at the Collins Bay farm annex who, while serving six years for parole violation, armed robbery, attempted robbery and possession of a sawed-off shotgun, did not return Sunday night from a day long pass. What are the minister's department or other authorities doing to apprehend this prisoner?

Mr. Baker: Probably nothing.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 4, Mr. John Charron was granted a one-day pass to visit a couple. He was to leave at nine o'clock in the morning and return at eleven o'clock in the evening. The hon. member is correct; he did not return. Since that time the police have been informed and an information has been laid, but we have not been able to find him yet.

Mr. Stackhouse: In light of this conduct by a person who already had a record of parole violation, is the minister willing to reconsider the policy of his department with regard to giving passes to this kind of person?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it was announced in the Speech from the Throne and I also answered questions in the House that we are reconsidering the entire question of parole and temporary absence.

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. In view of the minister's repeated public statements outside and inside the House concerning the intention of his departmental officials and himself to bring about reform in the bail measures now available to prisoners, when is it his intention to make a clearcut definitive statement to the House with respect to the tightening up of these very loose measures now in effect?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I never made any mention about bail. However, with regard to parole and temporary absence I explained to the House that I received the task force report just before Christmas. It is a rather lengthy report. We are analysing the report now and I hope to have some information for the House in the near future.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Will the minister in his best "Whelanese" tell the House why he has never mentioned fruit or vegetables in all his speeches sent to my office or in the speech he made in the House?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1500)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubts as to the acceptability of the hon. member's question. I think this would be an appropriate moment, on this happy note, to call orders of the day.

Is the hon. member for Kingston and The Islands rising on a point of order?

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would have done this during the question period had I been able to catch your eye. I should like to take this opportunity to welcome back to the House the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 1972-73—MOTIONS FOR
CONCURRENCE IN VOTES 35a, 40a, 45a—DEPARTMENT OF
NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

The House resumed, from Friday, February 9, consideration of the motion of Mr. Drury:

That vote 35a, in the amount of \$850,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for income security and social assistance—Operating expenditures in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

That vote 40a, in the amount of \$2,685,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for income security and social assistance—Contributions in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

That vote 45a, in the amount of \$1,000,000 of the Department of National Health and Welfare for fitness and amateur sport—Operating expenditures in supplementary estimates (A) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be concurred in.

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I was saying last Friday that we were experiencing a national economic lack of balance, that we were living gloomy days and had few solutions to offer. I was commenting on vote 45a in the amount of \$1,000,000 for fitness and amateur sport.

Mr. Speaker, I am not against amateur sport but we must live before having a good time.

Many families in Canada are at grips with financial problems and yet they are also entitled to live. One practices sports when one can afford it and has time for it, but we can no longer afford to spend so much money to develop amateur sports and thus deprive families of what they need.

All hon. members should try to answer the following question: Why are so many older persons so deprived, why have 65 years of their working life of sacrifices and