

the minister on that course having been followed, but I should like to ask him what were the results of the searches that were made in the 49 penitentiaries and penal institutions?

● (1430)

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, periodic checks are made, such as the one made last Friday, but I do not yet have the results. I hear that in the Ontario region they found very few contraband knives, but I do not have the reports from the British Columbia or prairie regions or from the Quebec or Atlantic regions as yet.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is quite a delay in giving a report on a matter as important as that. Did the minister receive any information on whether, as a result of the searches, any guns have been found?

Mr. Allmand: Not yet, Mr. Speaker, but as I say I do not have as yet the full report on that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Any reports?

Mr. Allmand: Searches were carried out on Friday and the reports will be given to the commissioner of penitentiaries and handed to me as soon as possible.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Doing things as soon as possible in the penitentiary service has certainly not been beneficial to the guards. Will the minister make it a point today to endeavour to get this report in reasonable finality and give it tomorrow, because guards everywhere are deeply concerned over the fact that too little attention is paid to the danger in which they find themselves as a result of indolence, negligence or other reasons in the penal institutions?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I will try to get that information to the right hon. member as soon as possible.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUGGESTION OTHER MEASURES NOT BE INCLUDED WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT LEGISLATION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of many reports over the weekend the Solicitor General was contemplating a crime package related also to the subject matter of capital punishment, can he advise the House whether, if he has any measures which will help improve the administration of justice, they will be brought forward now rather than be wrapped up with the very philosophical and sensitive issue of capital punishment?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, these matters are under review at present, and as soon as any measures are ready they will be brought before the House.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I had so many questions last week that I am only getting to the first one now, but I know that I cannot go too far today. Usually I am partly

Oral Questions

satisfied with the answers of the Solicitor General, but his last one was completely unsatisfactory. I should like to ask the Solicitor General if he does not think it is a more honourable and intellectually honest way—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Nowlan:—to bring forward the question of capital punishment by itself, rather than tie it up with a yellow ribbon, together with the omnibus bill which contains many other matters affecting the administration of justice?

Mr. Allmand: No decision has been made to bring forward an omnibus bill. As I mentioned before, all these matters are under consideration at present, but no decision has been made yet.

SUGGESTED EARLY INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I appreciate the fact that the minister has been questioned on this matter before. About a month ago he said these matters would be under consideration. When will the decision be made and, secondly, can the minister tell the House today whether he has any measures to improve the administration of justice in the form of a bill for first reading at least so we can see what these measures are, and will he let the other matters take their course in the fall?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): We have been implementing measures of an administrative nature immediately. The right hon. member referred to measures we are carrying on in the penitentiaries for the security of guards and inmates. With respect to bills, we are preparing certain bills and measures now and we will bring them before the House as quickly as possible. I would like to expedite them as quickly as I can.

* * *

TRADE

RECOMMENDATION FOR FREE TRADE BY ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and I apologize for not having a chance to give him advance notice of it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Corbin: Are we to understand that the government and the minister particularly do not propose to accept the suggestion of the Economic Council of Canada and its chairman that Canada open up its border completely to the importation of cheap, low priced and unfairly competitive manufactured items and that the government rejects the incipient threat contained in the proposal to the very survival of our manufacturing industry and of the hundreds of thousands of jobs, especially in the textile clothing field?