

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I was just apprised of that this morning. I believe it was a request in total for something like \$60,000 spread through many constituencies. I have got to work out the arrangements for that. I cannot give a final commitment on it except to say that my sympathy is in that direction.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair in the last few seconds will recognize the hon. member for Leeds and the hon. member for Charlevoix before calling orders of the day.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REACTION OF CUBA TO MOTION REQUESTING RELEASE OF RONALD PATRICK LIPPERT

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Prime Minister in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises out of the motion unanimously passed by the House last Friday asking the government of Cuba to release Ronald Patrick Lippert on humanitarian grounds and permit him to return to Canada. Can the Prime Minister advise the House whether the government has communicated the contents of the motion to the government of Cuba and, if so, whether the government expects a reply will be forthcoming in the near future?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will have to inquire, Mr. Speaker, as to the precise answer to that. I do know that in the past very short while, I think in the past week, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has been talking to the Cuban ambassador, but I could not vouch for the contents of that conversation.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION OF MENTAL PATIENTS—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO LAW REFORM COMMISSION

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the hon. Minister of Justice.

In view of certain representations made to him concerning the problem of involuntary sterilization in psychiatric hospitals and centres for mental patients, can the minister say whether the problem has been referred to the Law Reform Commission?

● (1210)

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe this specific question has been brought to their attention.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Justice.

Customs Act

Is he aware of recent representations that children aged 9, 10, and 11 have been so sterilized, and has he the intention of referring this question to the Law Reform Commission?

[English]

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not been aware of that before. The Law Reform Commission has, of course, the whole question of Criminal Code changes before it, and it may well be that within the broad scope of that term of reference this matter may be considered as well. I will be glad to look into the matter further with the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe rises on a point of order.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to hold back my temper. I have been here for five and a half years and I have been very reasonable in letting everybody have a chance to ask questions, but I have a district of 84,000 people to represent, many of them poor, and I want to give them good representation. Other than the leaders of the parties, I expect my share to be the same as that of anybody else. I just pass that on.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

CUSTOMS ACT

AMENDMENT TO MAKE ALL GOODS APPEARING ON SHIPS INWARD REPORT DUTIABLE EVEN IF NOT LANDED

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue) moved that: Bill C-189, an Act to amend the Customs Act, be read for the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

[English]

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend the Customs Act to permit more effective control over goods landed in Canada by ship, thus protecting the revenue. We need this to plug a leak that could be draining away as much as \$1 million a year that rightfully belongs to the Canadian people—duties and taxes on goods smuggled by sea and pilfered on docks.

Section 11 of the Customs Act now requires the master of any vessel entering Canada to go immediately to customs and provide a written report on all particulars of the contents, origin and destination of his ship's cargo.

There is, however, no legislative instrument which permits holding the master of a vessel responsible for the accuracy of his report inwards, or accountable for duty and taxes owing on goods which are reported as having been landed in Canada and are later incapable of being produced for customs clearance, due to pilferage, irregular delivery, or for any other reason. The section at one time provided all that was required for the exercise of essential customs controls against smuggling by sea. Customs physically checked ship cargoes against the master's report inwards.