Oral Questions

increase in the regressive unemployment insurance premiums and place some of the burden to pay for that Program on the general tax revenues?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, out of the increase that has been announced, if we take into account the deficit this year and next year, the Government will be absorbing about 70 per cent of the additional cost which this will represent. I think that is a fair contribution by the general taxpayer to the system when one realizes that, out of the rest, the employers contribute about 58 per cent and the workers contribute about 42 per cent. I think the Government of Canada and the taxpayers of Canada in general have indeed made their contributions to this particular situation.

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON MANDATORY SUPERVISION PROGRAM

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. For over a year the Solicitor General has been saying, "At any time now there will be a policy statement with regard to mandatory supervision," that social failure. In the meantime, because of his inaction, the Chairman of the National Parole Board has had to make a test case in British Columbia with regard to the Minister's policy. Can the Minister tell us when we can expect a policy statement from him, or legislation, which will put the security of the public of Canada first?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I am now ready to discuss, with my critics in the Opposition, the amount of time that might be required to deal with the legislation I propose to bring forward to tighten mandatory supervision.

Mr. Friesen: Madam Speaker, if the Minister were not so interested in spending \$60,000 to train mice to sniff out marijuana, he could perhaps have had this ready a long time ago.

SECURITY OF CITIZENS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is as follows: Will this policy change come as legislation, will it come as an Order in Council, and will it, above all else, put the security of Canadians first?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I cannot assure the House that the Opposition will totally agree with the provisions to tighten the rules of mandatory supervision which I am proposing, but it will be by legislation. I do hope to have the support and co-operation of the Opposition so that the House can deal with it rapidly when it is brought

forward. The measures have in no way been held up by any considerations with regard to mice.

TERRORISM

INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I wonder if the Solicitor General would have some statement or comment to make on the ugly emergence of violent terrorism in this country over the last few months. I am specifically speaking of the destruction of power facilities in British Columbia, the execution of a foreign diplomat on an Ottawa road, and the dangerous blowing up of the front of a Defence plant in Toronto. Are arrests in any or all of these cases near?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the detection—the solving of these crimes, if I can put it that way—is primarily a responsibility of local police forces. I can assure the Hon. Member that my understanding is that local police forces are giving them top priority. However, to the extent that national security and international terrorism are a factor in them, I can again assure him that the Security Service is discharging its responsibility in gathering information about them and in fully co-operating with the local police forces so far as the furnishing of intelligence available to our national Security Force is concerned.

USE OF STOLEN EXPLOSIVES

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, just to emphasize the national aspect of this matter, of which I am sure the Solicitor General should be aware, early in this year a large quantity of explosives was stolen in British Columbia. Later, only part of these explosives were used to destroy power facilities in that Province. I ask the Solicitor General whether he can tell us if some of those same explosives stolen in British Columbia were used to blow up the front of Litton Industries in Toronto, and whether he can inform us of the whereabouts, the quantity and the quality of the presumably unused remainder of those explosives, especially in light of threats being made about every second or third day against some other plants in this country. That is a national police matter. It is not a local police matter.

• (1500)

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that I am well aware of the substance of the matters that he put forward before the House. I would again like to remind him that in view of the division of constitutional responsibility and policing responsibilities, any progress in solving these cases will be announced by the local police departments concerned.