

Oral Questions

● (1440)

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, this issue is one that I am looking at in the context of updating and improving our parole and correctional system.

In the meantime, contrary to the suggestions of the Reform Party, I do not think our senior citizens would like to be put in prison.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that one stupid answer deserves another stupid question, but I will not do that.

The Speaker: Order. I would ask the hon. member to put his supplementary question.

Mr. White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, in the investigation and research the Solicitor General is doing I would like to ask if the Solicitor General would act and stand in the House today to eliminate this entitlement, or at least charge them for the meals they receive, their racquetball usage, the swimming pool or tennis court usage, or their room usage.

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, again I repeat this is an issue I am looking at in connection with the tightening up of the parole and correctional system.

I also want to say the hon. member has proven that while I do not attempt to give stupid answers it does not prevent me from receiving stupid questions.

The Speaker: Perhaps hon. members could refrain from using adjectives which might inflame one another.

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[Translation]

RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN FRENCH

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister justified the decision of the Kingston city council to block the construction of a French-language high school by stating, and I quote:

—city council decided to oppose the relocation of the school. The proposed site was only steps away from a dangerous toxic waste treatment site—

Yet, a verification reveals that this dangerous toxic waste treatment site simply does not exist.

Does the Prime Minister endorse the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister, who justified the decision of the Kingston city council by using reasons which, as we now know, do not exist?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Kingston Roman Catholic Separate School Board unanimously supported the idea of building a school in an appropriate location, but the proposed site is deemed inadequate by the municipality.

Based on the information I received, that location is used as a dump.

An hon. member: That is not true!

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Listen. I am saying that the school board is in favour of building a French-language school. They want to find the best possible site. They are considering two or three locations. This is an issue which concerns Kingston city officials and the Department of Education in Toronto. It is not a federal issue.

I want to emphasize that I asked if there was any objection to building a French-language school in Kingston. I was told: Absolutely not! We want such a school as soon as possible and in the best possible location.

I was given the assurance that a site would be found very soon.

● (1445)

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, the site already exists, but they want to change the zoning to allow a company to build a treatment plant, instead of the school. Those are the facts which should have been told to the Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, francophones have paid \$4.2 million; yes, \$4.2 million!

Will the Prime Minister personally take action to ensure that francophones in this country are treated fairly?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved to see Bloc Quebecois members care about francophones outside Quebec, considering that they want to isolate them completely by promoting Quebec's separation.

I am prepared to pledge that a French-language school will soon be built in Kingston.

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[English]

FISHERIES

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Just two weeks ago in a rare expression of unanimity, this House passed legislation enabling Canada to take enforcement action against flags of convenience and stateless vessels pilfering our fish stocks just outside the 200-mile limit.