

Oral Questions

with the British Columbia pilots, so it is not exactly the same thing.

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HOUSING**INQUIRY AS TO FUTURE INTEREST RATES ON MORTGAGES—
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AID PURCHASERS OF HOMES**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, supplementary to one asked by the hon. member for Calgary North to which he replied that the government did not accept the hypothesis on mortgage rates. Could the minister indicate what interest rates home owners who are presently contemplating building homes in Canada could anticipate, and what relief the minister has in mind for middle income people who presently cannot afford housing and are not eligible for housing programs?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the interest rate would depend upon the agency from which the prospective home owner intended to borrow. My answer to the hon. member for Calgary North referred to assisted home ownership programs which start interest rates at 9 per cent and effectively subsidizes them, given certain income conditions, down to 6 per cent.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE**UNION PROPOSAL FOR EARLY RETIREMENT—GOVERNMENT
POSITION**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary question to the Postmaster General.

I expect a very good answer in any event. Did the union first ask that a policy be established for the retirement of older employees to increase job security and if it did, can the minister say whether he is in favour of such a policy?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think the union has made such a request.

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[English]

PENITENTIARIES**MILLHAVEN—ASSAULT ON GUARD—REQUEST FOR
INVESTIGATION**

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General pertaining to a recent incident of violence committed by a convict in Millhaven penitentiary who assaulted and seriously injured a guard, Mr. Izard, last Sunday, April 14, when the latter was performing his duties. Will the minister investigate this offence and deal with it forthwith?

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, this incident is already under investigation by the Ontario provincial police and the inmate who attacked the officer has been put in disassociation.

Mr. Andre: You mean he is free!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES ON RETURN OF
CANADIAN RAILWAY CARS—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, could I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Following upon the information given to the House yesterday by the Minister of Transport that representations would be made to the United States government in the hope of bringing some pressure to bear upon railroads in the United States to return Canadian railway cars to Canada, can the minister tell the House whether he has yet made those representations to the United States government and what response he got?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my department may already have done so but I expect if they have not already done so I will be getting word today.

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SPORTS**ABANDONMENT OF STUDY OF SUPPLY OF RECREATIONAL
FACILITIES—ADVICE TO STUDENTS—POSSIBLE
ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT**

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact students hired in March to work on the National Sports and Recreational Facilities Supply and Demand Study were informed on April 1 that this project would not be continued because federal funds were not forthcoming, and in view of one student reporting that he was advised by his regional co-ordinator not to contact his member of parliament as this would not assist passage of this project through Treasury Board and might put undue pressure on the minister and also not to advise the press, would the minister tell the House if this advice was given generally to the students affected and was the minister aware of it?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

Mr. Stackhouse: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would the minister inform the House what alternative employment or compensation may be offered to the close to 100 young people affected by being deprived of summer job opportunities by this change of government policy?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, there have been various possibilities in terms of employment in the economy general-