

*Oral Questions*

whether he was talking about the old rate or the new higher rate announced last week?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, I have had no indication that the program is undermined or that the provinces are rejecting any money at these rates. On the contrary, they seem to be moving forward and we are co-operating with them. I do not say I am satisfied, or that anyone is satisfied with the degree of activity, but we are trying to escalate it. I will be introducing new legislation to this end. We have not had a bad record, or all that we want to see, but we want to build from there.

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**TRANSPORT**

**DIFFICULTIES WITH GO-URBAN MAGNETIC TRAIN—  
POSSIBILITY OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

**Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the frontpage headline in this morning's *Globe and Mail* to the effect that the province of Ontario's Go-Urban magnetic train is having difficulties and in view of the fact that this system was intended to be used in other places, particularly Ottawa, has the government of Canada been asked in any way to assist in this matter to overcome these difficulties?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman knows that we are working very closely with the government of Ontario in attempting to form only one corporation for the purpose to which the hon. member has referred. In addition to that, our own transportation development agency in Montreal is working on a device similar to the one which has been put under contract to Krauss-Mafei of Germany.

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**STATISTICS CANADA**

**INQUIRY AS TO ADVANCE INFORMATION BEING AVAILABLE  
TO SENATOR DAVEY**

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister and is supplementary to those asked earlier by the Leader of the Opposition. Would the minister advise the House whether any advance notice of the report of Statistics Canada referred to earlier goes directly, or is otherwise made available by any means to Senator Keith Davey? Can he give us any guarantee that that is not done or that that has not occurred?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION—MINISTER'S VIEW ON  
WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM**

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, in as much as the Minister of Finance has always in the past been willing to express his views on what is happening in the economy, for example in 1973 he said there was basic unemployment and in 1974 inflation, now that the policy of the government has slowed down the economy and we have rising unemployment and inflation at the same time, would he indicate what he considers the most important problem to be dealt with in the forthcoming year?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**PENITENTIARIES**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ESCAPE  
OF FIVE INMATES—LETTER REQUESTING VISIT BY  
JOURNALISTS TO CELL BLOCK ONE**

**Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the much publicized letter directed to the Solicitor General warning of a "blood bath killing spree" by extremely dangerous escapees from the maximum security block at Laval Penitentiary, would the minister advise the House of the intended response of his government to the threat? In view of the fact the minister almost a week ago received a promised report on the breakout, will he make a full statement on motions regarding this serious situation rather than continuing to ignore this House in favour of government by press conference?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to deny the last allegation. I have answered all questions put to me on this matter in this House.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Allmand:** Very often the press has better questions than I get in this House, therefore they get better answers.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Allmand:** Yesterday I received a call from a lawyer in Montreal who conveyed to me the contents of a letter he had received from two of the escaped inmates, one being Richard Blass, in which they complained of conditions in cell block one of the Laval temporary maximum penitentiary. They asked that we permit the entry of a group of journalists into the institution and that there be an improvement in the conditions. Let me say that we have always taken the position that we should try to improve and humanize our institutions and also improve the security, but we do not intend to let inmates decide for us how our penitentiaries should be administered.

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On the other hand we have always permitted the entry of the press into the institution unless there has been some serious incident. I have consulted with the officials of the