

back from Australia where I hope he observed the greater degree of latitude allowed to private members in the legislature there. Has the minister discussed with the Minister of Agriculture my request that the government of Canada involve itself in the proceedings now before the Supreme Court in Quebec or in the proposed proceedings which the province of Manitoba has indicated it intends to take before the Supreme Court of Canada concerning the prohibition of the interprovincial marketing of agricultural products?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his kind remarks. I think he and I know that we get along very well with the Australians who are plain-speaking and forthright. The practical solution the federal government has always sought to this problem is the farm products marketing agencies bill which was before the House and a committee during the last session, which we felt could resolve the problem and for which we had unanimous provincial co-operation at the end of the last federal-provincial conference. As to the legal problem involved, the federal government is concerned, of course, about any barrier to interprovincial trade. In so far as there may be a constitutional question involving federal jurisdiction we will, of course, ensure that the federal point of view is presented to the court. Whether the province of Manitoba can successfully bring the matter before the Supreme Court by way of reference is perhaps doubtful.

I am not sure, as I said before, that a reference to the Supreme Court is the proper way to handle the matter because in a reference, as the hon. gentleman knows, the facts have to be specific and ascertained. The difficulty here is that we are dealing with various types of legislation and several marketing boards and broilers and eggs. There is no consensus concerning what the facts are. If there is to be a court action, I think it would have to proceed in the ordinary way. As I say, the best solution is the legislation placed before this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary of the minister. Having in mind that the passage of Bill C-197 introduced last session may not now be as rapid owing to the notorious stubbornness of the Minister of Agriculture in adapting to what the farmers want, would the minister not consult with the provincial governments to see whether or not terms of reference could be framed? The ingenuity of members of the bar is well known, and surely terms of reference could be framed to deal with and have this matter disposed of in one swoop.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): It is not just a matter of terms of reference; it is a matter of agreement on the facts. That is what is at issue. It is not just the legislation; it is how the legislation or regulations are being used, as I understand it, that provokes the problem.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, is it now the position of the Minister of

Inquiries of the Ministry

Justice that whenever the constitution is challenged in a number of ways the government will not seek an authoritative answer?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): No. We will seek an authoritative answer but in the best way. I suggest to the hon. gentleman that that is not the correct way.

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TRANSPORT

BUS SAFETY STANDARDS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I had a question I wanted to ask the Minister of Transport but possibly his Parliamentary Secretary can reply. I have in mind the fact that the United States Department of Transport has just ordered 404 interstate buses off the roads because of major safety standard violations. What is our department doing in this same potentially dangerous area?

Mr. Speaker: It would seem to me that the question asked by the hon. member is very general in nature. Any statement which might be made should normally be made as a statement on motions, unless the minister has a very brief and concise answer to give.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join with the hon. member for Peace River in welcoming back the Minister of Justice. In his capacity as Minister of Justice I put this suggestion to him in the form of a question. In view of the federal government's direct responsibility for the safety of foreign diplomats in Canada and in view of the support of the Confederation of National Trade Unions for the FLQ's position, would the minister consider getting assistance from the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, past president of that union—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Grey-Simcoe.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

TERRORIST OPERATIONS—ACTIVITIES OF CANADIANS RETURNED FROM ALGERIA, CUBA AND JORDAN—REPORTED GUERRILLA TRAINING CAMP

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that terrorists now operating in Canada are reported to have been trained outside this country, is the government thoroughly investigating the activities of those Canadian citizens who have returned to Canada in the past year from Algeria, Cuba and Jordan?