

*Oral Questions***PENITENTIARIES****OBSERVANCE OF NATIVE SPIRITUAL RIGHTS—HUNGER STRIKE  
AT B.C. INSTITUTION**

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Will the Minister say what his Department is doing to resolve the serious situation at the Kent Maximum Security Penitentiary in British Columbia where several Indian inmates are in the twenty-third day of a hunger strike because they have been restricted from carrying out their Indian spiritual ceremonies. Would the Minister intervene to resolve this serious situation as soon as possible and take steps to see that Indians have the same spiritual rights in penitentiaries as do other religious groups, which I believe is a basic principle in the New Charter of Rights?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, as a matter of interest, native religious ceremonies have not been permitted in Canadian penitentiaries in the past. I decided to change that. I asked the Correctional Service of Canada to design a policy permitting native spiritual observances in institutions. They have designed a policy. The native people in Kent are dissatisfied with that policy, and tried to get an injunction under the Charter. The court has held that the policy which CSC devised was a satisfactory one so far as the Charter is concerned, from my understanding of the judgment. I have asked to see that policy myself. I am now in the process of reviewing it to see whether changes can be made. However, I think the Indians are going a long way when they characterize this new policy, which first allows religious observance in institutions and native observance, as a form of genocide, and I think it not unreasonable that there should be some restrictions on the amount of religious material and equipment which each Indian should be allowed to have in his cell. I want to review the policy, as I say, but I am very pleased that a great deal of progress has been made on this subject in a very short time.

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● (1130)

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED**

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I was not yet finished with the Prime Minister.

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

**An Hon. Member:** He's on his last legs, too.

**Mr. Waddell:** I wonder if I could ask him a further question, seriously. I have in my hand a letter from an action group of unemployed people. These groups are going up all over the country, and they cannot direct a question to the Prime Minister, so maybe I can.

In the letter the writer states that he asked some grade four students what they would do if they were Prime Minister. One

of them said, "If I were Prime Minister, I would gather taxes for the poor and help them to find jobs."

I therefore want to direct this final question to the Prime Minister. If we are to have a high rate of unemployment, which seems to be Government policy in the budget, in the statements of the Minister—I believe in full employment, but apparently the Government does not—I want to ask the Prime Minister how he will get money, real money, to these people. How will he redistribute money to these people who will suffer among the 11 per cent or 12 per cent unemployed in our society? Is this his idea of a just society? If it is not, how will he redistribute some income to these people so that they will have satisfactory and full lives like the rest of us who are working?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The Hon. Member repeats again that he is in favour of full employment. He has failed, in my three attempts to get a view from him—

**Mr. Waddell:** I'm asking the question. Why don't I get some answers?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Oh, this is a cross-examination, Madam Speaker. I still do not know how the Hon. Member can speak of full employment and not be able to define it, at what statistical level he would find unemployment to be correct for a just society. However, I think he has quoted to me a good source for an answer to his question. I think that fourth grade student gave a very good answer. If the Hon. Member goes and meets with the fourth grade student, I bet he will get explanations as to why the Minister of Finance is doing the right thing, because if I understood correctly, the fourth grade student said that the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister should gather taxes and give jobs to people. That is what the Minister of Finance is doing in his budget, with some \$4.8 billion which the budget has—

**Mr. Waddell:** And jobs counting dogs?

**Mr. Trudeau:** —earmarked in order to give jobs to people. Some of it will be given to the private sector, with some \$2.4 billion having been set aside for that. The other will be job creation in infrastructure by the federal Government. I would think that even the fourth grade student would be able to explain to the Hon. Member that one does not have to count dogs in order to build the infrastructure. I do not see how that would help.

What one can do is build airports, harbours, public works programs, encourage all kinds of—well, the Minister of Finance was giving examples to the Hon. Member for St. John's East the other day—make sure that the search and rescue apparatus is upgraded, make sure that Coast Guard ships are built. All these are things which Canada needs.

The kind of idea that Nye Bevan and the other Bevan were developing some 30 or 40 years ago should reach the Hon. Member. He should know that there are more things on the shelf than projects for counting dogs. He should be able to tell