

2. The government considers that the storage of nuclear warheads to be earmarked for certain defensive weapon systems already acquired for the Canadian forces is a useful defence measure.

\*REPORTED OVERPRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**Question No. 856—Mr. Mather:**

Is the government giving consideration to reports that U.S. defence officials believe there is a gross overproduction of nuclear weapons?

**Mr. Stewart:** As Canada is not a country which produces nuclear weapons and since such nuclear capable weapons as we have are intended to fulfil defence requirements which are not dependant on future production, any intention on the part of the U.S. government to cut back production on atomic weapons would not have a bearing on the availability of warheads for the weapon systems now held by the Canadian armed forces.

NUMBER OF SUICIDES

**Question No. 857—Mr. Mather:**

1. How many persons committed suicide in Canada in 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962?

2. How many other causes of death outrank suicide, and what are they?

3. What is the estimated number of attempted suicides in relation to successful suicides?

**Mr. Pepin:** 1. The following are the numbers of suicides in Canada in: 1959, 1,287; 1960, 1,350; 1961, 1,366; 1962, 1,331.

2. According to a commonly accepted grouping of causes of death, there were 11 causes in 1962 that outranked suicide. They are: 1st, heart disease; 2nd, cancer; 3rd, vascular lesions affecting central nervous system; 4th, accidents; 5th, pneumonia; 6th, diseases of arteries; 7th, congenital malformations; 8th, diabetes mellitus; 9th, post natal asphyxia and atelectasis; 10th, nephritis; 11th, birth injuries; 12th, suicide.

3. For 1960, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 207 convictions for attempted suicide. In that year there were 1,350 deaths due to suicide. The ratio of the first figure to the second is: 0.1533; or 15.3 per cent.

CONSTRUCTION OF PENITENTIARY, SWEETSBURG, QUE.

**Question No. 859—Mr. Rondeau:**

In connection with the construction of a penitentiary at Sweetburg, Quebec (a) what amount has been spent to date on this project (b) what are the names of the firms which were awarded these contracts (c) what are the nominal amounts of these contracts (d) is construction work now suspended and, if so, since when, and for what reasons

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(e) has the project been abandoned (f) will a similar construction project be undertaken in St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville?

**Mr. Macdonald:** (a) \$92,840.81.

(b) Contract was awarded to B & M Construction of Sweetburg on March 8, 1963.

(c) Contract amount is \$362,298.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(Translation):

ROYAL MINT AND CANADIAN BANK NOTE CO.

**Question No. 861—Mr. Rondeau:**

1. Is the Royal Mint in Ottawa an agency of the government of Canada?

2. What is its function?

3. What procedure does the Bank of Canada follow in dealing with the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd.?

4. Does the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. produce paper money for the Bank of Canada?

5. Does the Canadian Bank Note Company Ltd. produce paper money for its own account and then lend it to the Bank of Canada?

**Mr. Benson:** 1. The Ottawa mint, established as a branch of the Royal Mint, London, under the (Imperial) Coinage Act, 1870, and opened January 2, 1908, was by 21-22 Geo. V., ch. 48, constituted a branch of the Department of Finance and by the proclamation of November 14, 1931, it has, since December 1, 1931, operated as the Royal Canadian Mint.

2. The principal functions of the mint are: the execution of domestic and foreign coin; the refining of gold and silver; the acquisition of gold, silver and other metals, payments for which are made on the basis of mint assays; the control, preparation and movement of gold and coin shipments; the safeguarding of mint holdings of monetary metals, including coin and precious metals in various processing stages until finished and issued; the fabrication and engraving of dies for coinage, medals, signatures and official seals; the issue of coin sets to numismatists and the administration of various regulations issued under the terms and provisions of the Currency, Mint and Exchange Fund Act, R.S. 1952, ch. 315.

3. Not a matter of public record.

4. Yes.

5. No.

(Text):

HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT, LITTLE RIVER, N.S.

**Question No. 862—Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):**

Has the Department of Public Works any plans for the further development of the harbour at