

by the special inquiry, to make them public in the next few days as soon as I have them.

● (1425)

As to the nature of the special inquiry group, it is true that normally the special inquiry is constituted of members of the Inspector General's office, which is a division of the correctional service of Canada, but in this particular case we have asked to serve on the commission and have the support of a senior official of the provincial correctional service. Therefore, my hon. friend will have his wish before even asking me to have an outsider sit on that commission. There will be an outsider on it who knows a great deal about penitentiaries.

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INDUSTRY

CAPE BRETON, N.S.—INQUIRY WHETHER PLANS TO REVITALIZE STEEL INDUSTRY WILL BE ANNOUNCED

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Last week the minister indicated that he was not aware if the task force report on the future of Sysco had been submitted to the government. Is he now aware that not only was that task force report submitted to the government, but that was done about a month ago? If he is aware that that task force report is now in, is he now prepared to announce the detailed plan of the government to revitalize the steel industry in Cape Breton Island along the lines promised by the Prime Minister almost a year ago?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I met with the steelworkers this morning. In preparation for that meeting, I inquired on Friday as to the status of the results of the task force report and I was advised it would be on hand within a few days. Therefore, if it has arrived, then my information is incorrect.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, it is not totally unusual for the minister to be incorrect, but I will inform him that the minister responsible for DREE did indeed get the report on September 14; so it has been around for some time. In that context, I would also like to ask him this. In preparing for this morning's meeting, I hope the minister also learned that there is growing potential for export sales of coke in world markets. In order for us to cash in on those export sales, it is essential that we get ahead of our American competitors in modernizing our steel producing facility at Sysco. Does the government have some sense of urgency about this matter, and will the minister be prepared to announce within a matter of days detailed plans for the modernization of Sysco?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, there is and has been a sense of urgency with respect to developing the possibilities for coke. I believe that some weeks ago the Department of Regional Economic Expansion opened an office in Halifax with the sole purpose of developing interest on the continent

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and elsewhere in establishing a coke plant in the Cape Breton area because it had been established, to my understanding, that such a plant might be viable. So the government has acted long before the hon. member caught on to this idea.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, the minister says he is aware of the matter and is acting with some sense of urgency. He has just demonstrated that he did not know the report was submitted to his government more than a month ago. That is some sense of urgency. An office in Halifax which he announced in order to promote sales will not produce jobs where they are needed most urgently right now, namely in Cape Breton.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: In the past few weeks alone, over 600 people have been laid off at Sysco. Since there is potential for selling coke if we modernize now—and the man sitting at the minister's left promised in two elections in a row to modernize that facility within the first year after being elected—when is this government going to get off its collective derriere and live up to its election promises to the people of Cape Breton?

● (1430)

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I am not going to debate with the hon. member about the arrival of that report. I question very strongly whether his information is accurate, but we can ascertain that later. It is a matter of fact that we can ascertain. My information on Friday was that the results of that task force report would not be available until a few days from now, and would be going forward for study. That is a matter of fact. If it has arrived, all the better.

Having regard to the "man to my left", I would remind the hon. member that when the Prime Minister appeared in Sydney and discussed the Sydney steel plant he repeated a commitment which had already been made by the Government of Canada to the government of Nova Scotia to provide \$50 million in support of modernization of the Sydney steel plant. That commitment still stands and we are awaiting some plan or program which will ensure that when that money and possibly some funds from the provincial government are spent, the Sydney steel plant will have a certain and viable future. I for one am not prepared to advocate spending money unless I have some assurance that the money will result in a viable and certain future for that particular plant.

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

REQUEST FOR VOTE IN HOUSE

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, in light of reports coming out of the Dorchester penitentiary lately concerning resignation of guards, a state of crisis, hostage-takings and deaths, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General. In view of these recent events at Dorchester, will the minister consider what the former Conservative gov-