

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): I have no evidence on that aspect right now, but we have set up an inquiry to determine the circumstances of the hostage-taking and I hope to make the information available to the House and to the public as soon as the inquiry is completed.

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: As I say, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware at the moment of all the particulars, but I will get all the details and try to respond tomorrow.

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[Translation]

PROPOSAL THAT BRITISH COLUMBIA CRIMINALS NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Solicitor General.

Since we have enough problems in the Atlantic Region and more particularly in New Brunswick, would the Solicitor General take the necessary measures so that British Columbia criminals remain in British Columbia?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): As I said, it happens on many occasions that we transfer inmates from one penitentiary to another in order to provide better security by breaking up cliques and gangs. I might point out to my hon. friend that we have several inmates from New Brunswick in British Columbia penitentiaries.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

ST. JEROME TRICOFIL—INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL GRANT FINANCIAL AID

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Undoubtedly the minister is aware of the difficulties experienced by the firm Tricofil of St. Jerome which cannot get bank credit or assistance from the Quebec government. Did the minister have talks with Tricofil which was asking for federal assistance either from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and if there were talks between Tricofil, the government and the department, did the department reach a conclusion?

● (1420)

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I believe some such discussions are underway, but I would ask the hon. member's indulgence to take the question as notice. I will get him a detailed answer tomorrow.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the minister's answer. Can we expect the federal government to assist this new form of trade organization?

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. What action does the government intend to take on the final recommendation of the Food Prices Review Board, released last Friday, which recommends, among other things, the setting up of a ministry of state for food which would have responsibility for keeping an eye on the Minister of Agriculture?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe that that was seriously recommended by the review board. Perhaps the hon. member was too busy over the weekend to read the text himself; he might want to ask a better question.

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AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL BOARD TO CO-ORDINATE FOOD PRODUCTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. The minister can assure the Prime Minister that the Food Prices Review Board was, in fact, serious in its final recommendation. Does the Minister of Agriculture intend to follow the other principal recommendations of the Food Prices Review Board, which spoke so critical of him, by setting up immediately a federal-provincial board which would have the effect of co-ordinating and maximizing the production of food in Canada, especially for the benefit of Canadian consumers as well as world consumers?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have not had time to study the report. It arrived on my desk only this morning and I was very busy this weekend looking after my constituency,—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Whelan:—so I have not had time to study it. I have only had time to see what was written in some of the nation's leading newspapers. I do not want to be a super Minister of Agriculture; I just want to be a good one.