

proposals for change and for improving the mandatory supervision system.

When the hon. member talks about those two particular cases, I have to remind him that, no matter what system we have, there is an element of unpredictability about human nature and behaviour. Whatever system we have of conditional release will always be subject to the possibility of being unable to predict the behaviour of certain dangerous individuals.

OPERATION OF SYSTEM

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, it is all very well for the minister to point out these truisms or clichés, and what he says may be true. However, it is also true that the system, flawed as it is, if allowed to work properly is still offering some safeguards to the public. My concern is that the community assessment report with respect to Olson was not followed. Subsequently the crimes for which he was charged were committed. If the system were allowed to work it is possible that, during the relevant times, there would be a lot of changes. On whose conscience is this going to rest? Is the minister just going to hide behind the system, or does he feel an obligation to look into what happened in these cases?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I am not aware that the system was not followed in either of those two cases. I will look into them. I would be happy to hear more about them from the hon. member.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORTED PLAN TO ESTABLISH CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMPS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is for the same minister. For the past year we have been treated to the repentance of the government for the treatment of the Japanese during World War II who were put in internment camps. At the same time that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice were justifying the charter of rights so that we would not have a repeat performance of that, they were passing an order in council to empower the Solicitor General "to establish, administer and operate civilian internment camps". I would like to ask the Solicitor General, who will be the customers next time?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, there are no such orders in council. What the hon. member is referring to is the design of a plan for dealing with national emergencies in Canada. Under that plan if we were dealing with a situation of invasion of the country, or some other extreme emergency, I think it would be appropriate, and the government would be criticized for failing, to have plans to operate in situations such as that.

Oral Questions

● (1450)

TERMS OF STANDING ORDER PUBLISHED IN "THE CANADA GAZETTE"

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): I shall refer the minister to *The Canada Gazette* dated June 10. Order in Council SR 1 TR 81-76 established the clear difference between an emergency situation and war. No wonder the member from Ottawa-Vanier calls reading the Charter "a hallucinating experience". Does the minister now want to institutionalize the War Measures Act? The same order in council empowers the minister to empty the prisons and make room for civilians. Does the minister intend to free the people convicted of a criminal charge and to make room for people who have fallen into disfavour?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): If this country were invaded by foreign powers and the government and the security service of Canada were aware of the presence of illegals or foreign agents of that foreign power in Canada, does the hon. member suggest that nothing should be done about it? Should they be allowed to remain at liberty in positions in the country?

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[Translation]

ENERGY

INCREASE IN ELECTRICITY RATES IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Not long ago the minister published a brochure under the title "Do your heating bills make you shiver?" Well, with the indirect tax the social democratic government of Quebec has put on electricity, a lot of Quebecers are going to shiver this winter, especially those with electric heating, and the poor will suffer a lot more than the rich. During negotiations with Quebec on his \$800 grant program for single-family dwellings, was the minister informed by his Quebec counterpart that there was going to be a rate increase of 20 per cent in 1982, and could the minister tell the House whether he accepts part of the responsibility for this increase or this indirect tax on electricity in Quebec?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the rates charged by Hydro-Quebec are quite obviously the exclusive responsibility of the government of Quebec. As the hon. member pointed out, several weeks ago the Quebec government decided to raise these rates very substantially. Obviously, the Government of Canada was not consulted, and I have had no word from my counterpart on the matter. The decision is the exclusive responsibility of the Quebec Department of Energy and the Parti Québécois government responsible for that department. As far as we are concerned, we shall continue to give grants of up to