Oral Questions

[English]

IMMIGRATION

ALLEGED ENTRY OF CRIMINALS FROM THE UNITED STATES—

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that known criminals are entering Canada through the Niagara Falls and Fort Erie ports of entry, and that the Hamilton and Burlington police run a shuttle service to the border returning known American criminals to the United States where they are able to re-enter Canada in a matter of hours, what immediate and specific action does the minister plan to take to alleviate this situation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I have had no such representations whatsoever from the Attorney General of the province of Ontario. So far as I am concerned, this allegation may have some substance but there are no facts available to me to indicate it is the case.

Second, the whole set of immigration procedures has been tightened up to the degree that, with the co-operation particularly of the Toronto police, the situation is very much in hand. Third, it has already been announced that with regard to people who have been deported and who come back into Canada there will be stiff penalties imposed by legislation that my colleague the Minister of Justice hopes to place before the House in this session.

Mr. Kempling: Can the minister explain the breakdown in border surveillance recently when a well known American criminal was admitted to Canada through Fort Erie and subsequently apprehended by the Ontario Provincial Police?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, there are 40 million visitors from foreign lands who come to this country every year. Generally speaking we applaud this because it is tremendously beneficial to the tourist industry. When there is free movement of 40 million people there is bound to be the odd one who gets through who should not, but we are doing our best to control it.

PENITENTIARIES

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE SHORTAGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the fact there are only 14 full-time psychiatrists in the federal penitentiary service and in view of the fact that the Solicitor General has admitted it is very difficult to attract psychiatrists to the service, what measures is he taking to solve this critical problem?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have asked our penitentiary officials to do all they can to attract more psychiatrists. I have met with groups of psychiatrists, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: What did they find out?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I would recommend it to the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: However, the difficulty is that in the past many of our institutions were built in areas or small towns away from the large centres and it is difficult to attract psychiatrists to those areas. In addition, it is difficult to attract psychiatrists away from very large, lucrative practices in the private sector. We are doing all we can to get more psychiatrists. Very often we have to go abroad to get them.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TO ALLOW HIGHER ROYALTY FOR OIL PRODUCED ON RESERVES

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Will the minister tell the House whether the proper regulation will be in place before April 1 so that oil-producing Indian bands can take advantage of the oil price increase by way of increased royalties?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker. An order in council was passed this week to that effect and starting the first of April the Indians of Alberta will receive a higher royalty for the oil that is produced on the reserves.

GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS BY WHEAT BOARD WITH GOVERNMENT OR RAILWAYS FOR PURCHASE OF HOPPER CARS

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Is the minister in a position to say whether the Canadian Wheat Board has entered into negotiations with the government or the railways for the purchase of hopper cars?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board has not entered into such negotiations. The government has been considering this whole matter and we are making progress in the direction of ensuring that there will be adequate facilities for the movement of grain in the future.

Mr. Towers: I wonder if the minister could tell us whether or not this will be in the form of purchasing more hopper cars?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it will in the sense that everyone has agreed for quite some time that new equipment is