

S.O. 22

The conditions under which refugees are detained in these centres are deplorable and fail to meet the minimum standards of the United Nations. I visited the Centre in June with several other Members, and we found conditions similar to those in prisons.

The Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration transmitted a report on these detention centres to the Minister last June, and we are still waiting for a reply.

A few months ago, five security guards at the Ville Saint-Laurent Centre were fired because of their brutal treatment of the refugees, which means that the authorities are aware of the problem.

The detainees who are on a hunger strike want to meet the regional authorities responsible for detention centres tomorrow, with their lawyers.

I hope the authorities will have the decency to listen so that finally something can be done about the inhuman conditions under which these people are being detained.

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[English]

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, we have in the last few days seen the development of a serious situation in Canada. As we all know, the Opposition often releases information which becomes the news in the nation. This news quickly reaches into the homes of the people of Canada. The credibility of the Opposition rests on the accuracy of that information.

Over the last couple of weeks the Leader of the Opposition has made a number of serious allegations about people and about issues. He has been quick to call for resignations and to offer his condemnation of actions on nothing more than what now appears to be rumour. Today we read that the Leader of the Opposition has been dealing in rumours. He called for the resignation of others on the basis of rumours; what will he now do faced with the facts of his own?

Will he, one, take the advice of the Hon. Member from Shawinigan and call a convention?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cooper: Or, two, will he check his facts before attacking the credibility of others?

Or, three, will he continue as he is now by keeping the rest of the rats quiet while he is out in front of pack?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I think Hon. Members would expect me to indicate that the last reference in that statement would be normally out of order.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INCREASE IN CANADIAN TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, as arts and culture critic for the NDP caucus I joined with the arts community and Canadians generally in pressing for more Canadian programming, especially in entertainment. Thus it is with a great deal of pleasure that I welcome the CBC's announcement of an increase in Canadian television programming to 80 per cent in prime time this year.

If the focus on Canadian programming last week is anything to go by, we have a most exciting season to look forward to. The announcement of a 30 per cent increase in drama programming is even more welcome and more overdue. This new programming will mean jobs and opportunities for Canadian writers, performers, directors and producers, independents as well as those in the Corporation. Yet there are losers as well, for the CBC is continuing its policy of treating women as second-class citizens. The increased opportunity for male writers, actors and so forth is not being matched with similar opportunities for women. Indeed, since more women appear in American programming than in Canadian programming, this move by the CBC may reduce the portrayal of women to below the current and paltry level of one-quarter.

I call on the CBC to become the excellent national network it could be and portray the dynamism and creativity of Canadians of all regions and both sexes.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES

SALE OF CANNED TUNA—SEIZURE OF DISPUTED PRODUCT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In reviewing *Hansard* and the answers to questions yesterday by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the Prime Minister, I can only conclude that the Government is more interested in covering up incompetence than in coming clean with Canadians.

In view of the statement the Prime Minister made yesterday to the House that "less than desirable", tuna products would be removed from consumer shelves, why does his Minister persist in refusing to withdraw that contaminated tuna from Canadian grocery shelves in light of the Prime Minister's very categorical statement in the House?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to the right hon. gentleman's question without necessarily accepting some of the rhetorical comment which preceded it. I would like to tell the House that in the interest of public confidence—