

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, a convict at Collins Bay has actually hit a guard. Since that constitutes an assault, we have asked the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate. I think that the best way to discover the truth is to use inside penitentiaries those agencies which make investigations outside them.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

STATEMENT OF FORMER MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
—CALLING OF GENERAL ELECTION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

The former Minister of Communications stated in St. Johns, Newfoundland, I believe it was yesterday, that there would be a resurgence of inflation in 1973-74. Was the former minister, who is still a Liberal member, then reflecting the government's opinion?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that this question is out of order. The statement was made by a former minister, and not by a current minister. This is why the question cannot be asked in the terms used by the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

Mr. Caouette: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the government and not the former minister a supplementary question which is quite relevant.

Is the Prime Minister considering calling a general election before inflation recurs?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This would be quite a good idea, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

INFORMATION CANADA

SECURITY REPORT ON JEAN-LOUIS GAGNON—REFERENCE
IN LETTER OF MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE
RATE AFFAIRS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and arises from an answer given by the Prime Minister to a question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Red Deer. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister stated that no comprehensive security report was prepared for cabinet use on the director of Information Canada, in order to clarify some correspondence received from the minister's office, especially in view of his penchant for credibility in advertising and many other things, could the minister explain to which comprehensive report he was referring in letters dealing with this matter to constituents in his riding?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the letter to which I think the hon. member refers was intended to indicate that security

[Mr. Peters.]

procedures had been followed in this case, which is the information that the Prime Minister gave the House over a year ago.

Mr. Nowlan: Is it fair to assume from the minister's answer that the specific statement in the letter that "a comprehensive report was drawn up for the use of cabinet only" is incorrect?

Mr. Basford: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

STUDENT MILITIA TRAINING PROGRAM QUOTAS
AND COURSES

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister advise the House whether the quotas under the student militia training program have now been reached?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I will take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Marshall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is taking notice of the question, would he investigate the reason why, despite an expansion of the program from 5,000 to 8,000, some provinces' quotas have been seriously reduced, and would the minister also investigate why some courses have been cut out or cancelled at armouries where applications had already been made?

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FISHERIES

SUGGESTED SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS GRANTED TO UNITED
STATES FISHING VESSELS ON PACIFIC COAST

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Prime Minister might be able to give me an answer today to the question I asked him on June 1 arising from the refusal of the United States coastguard to admit Canadian fishing vessels to ports in the state of Washington, and what action the government might take in light of this situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I remember referring this question to, I believe, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This is not a day on which the department is answering in the House, but I understand that there is a minister to my left who is able to supply an answer to this question.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I understand that an investigation is being carried out into that subject. The Secretary of State for External Affairs wants to remark, however, that there is no contractual obligation with respect to this situation, that the whole matter is dealt with under cus-