

ENERGY

PROPOSAL TO USE ELECTRICITY PRODUCED IN LABRADOR IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of his recent visit to the Atlantic area and particularly to Churchill Falls, Labrador, is the minister now optimistic that hydro resources in Labrador can be developed for the benefit of the Atlantic area, and will he ensure that the full force of his office and indeed of the government of Canada is used to bring this about?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

JUSTIFICATION FOR REBUKE OF PRESIDENT FORD FOR STATEMENT ON EXCLUSION OF TAIWAN FROM OLYMPIC GAMES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. What was the justification of the Secretary of State for External Affairs for accusing President Ford of being political when he encouraged the U.S. Olympic Committee to protest the exclusion of Taiwan, when Canada's action in its handling of the situation is regarded by many nations around the world as being the most political act in the history of the Olympics?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the hon. gentleman that we have brought no pressure to bear upon Canadian participation on the IOC.

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PENITENTIARIES

MEASURES TO INCREASE SECURITY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Would the minister please be good enough to advise the House what steps, if any, are being taken or have been taken to increase security measures and staff, including the authority of the staff, at maximum security penitentiaries, particularly in respect to greater security measures for the hardened criminals there?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am still trying to work out something and I hope to make an announcement later today.

Oral Questions
TRANSPORT

DATE OF INCREASE IN FUNDS TO ALLOW AUXILIARY COAST GUARD ON WEST COAST TO OPERATE

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport which is a follow up to the question asked the other day about the coast guard auxiliary. Would the minister advise the House when we can expect a decision by cabinet regarding the coast guard auxiliary in view of the urgent situation on the west coast right now?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the establishment of the coast guard auxiliary is ongoing and has already begun. The current questions which are before cabinet are rather with regard to the total equipment available for the coast guard itself. The auxiliary role of a variety of vessels not directly associated with the government will always be of extreme importance. On the west coast, the auxiliary organization is now in an important phase of its introduction.

Mr. Reynolds: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the coast guard auxiliary, which was started in Delta and Richmond in my riding, has been stopped now due to lack of funds, can the minister say when there will be a decision of cabinet to put these funds in place so that they can continue to do the excellent work that both he and I agree they do?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it will be perhaps within a matter of days, certainly within a matter of weeks.

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BILINGUALISM

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF ADVISORY BOARD ON CREATION OF BILINGUAL DISTRICT AT ST. CATHARINES

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister arising from the consideration being given by the government as to whether St. Catharines and the general area should be classified as a bilingual district. In view of the fact that a confidential document containing minutes of a meeting sponsored by the bilingual districts advisory board in the Constellation Hotel in Toronto has been given to the hon. member for Lincoln and also reportedly, given to the *Globe and Mail*, would the government agree to make this document public so as to enable everybody concerned to learn what happened at this meeting?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it would be my understanding that the body to which the hon. member refers is an autonomous body that is advisory to the government, and I do not think it would be appropriate for us to put any pressure on them.

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister probably misinterpreted my question since it was the President of the Treasury Board and his staff who gave out these documents. That is why I directed the question to the