

*St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary*

that a public inquiry into the problem should be held, then surely he should bring the officials from St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs so the committee can study in depth the problems confronting these men today.

We have been told that part of the problem is due to the lack of information on the part of these officials about young prisoners who enter the penitentiary. It may be that the courts and the facilities of the courts have been remiss in giving proper information to the officials before these young fellows arrive at the penitentiary, thereby making it more difficult for the officials to assess their individual problems and to direct treatment for them.

I hope the minister will refrain from preserving this problem unto himself and his officials, and that he will set up a public inquiry to deal with the problem and permit the proper evidence to be given with a view to finding a solution. If the minister does not take that action, surely he should agree to the officials from St. Vincent de Paul coming before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs to give their views so they may be publicized and solutions worked out.

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the minister's statement is pertinent. However, I suggest that it is incomplete, considering that in recent years there has been a disturbing increase in the number of suicides in Canadian penitentiaries.

Taking into account the cost of the Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines penitentiary, for instance, that is \$32,500 per inmate, we are justified in saying, I believe, that the government is spending too much on capital works but not enough to prevent unfortunate incidents such as those we are deploring today.

The government spends lots of money on buildings, but none to prepare the future of the inmates who will eventually be released.

In some countries, inmates are taught a job or a trade to bolster their morale. For some years, the federal government has had a manpower retraining program.

I feel the government should also see that our inmates get an education. In short, the government grossly overspends for the building of premises. In fact, in Cowansville, the district next to mine, there is a fine penitentiary, but the government has organized nothing there by way of psychology and psychia-

[Mr. Gilbert.]

try in the interests of the inmates' morale, security and education. When they leave the penitentiary, they will have acquired nothing at all.

This morning, as we have been doing for some time, we must express our concern with the increasing number of suicides in penitentiaries, because we give too much attention to the material aspects and not enough to the moral aspects of the life of the inmates.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now revert to the oral question period.

• (11:50 a.m.)

*[English]*

**ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****GOVERNMENT POSITION ON MEMBERSHIP OF GREECE IN NATO**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to the question of Greece and ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether it is the position of the government that the question of the membership of Greece in NATO is closed or, in view of the minister's statement that he was most impressed by the careful, judicious and impartial way in which the commission carried out its work and that the commission had found that acts of torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners had been carried out and that the Greek government had not effectively suppressed these abuses, is the government of Canada prepared to take up with her NATO allies the question of whether Greece ought to be asked to give satisfactory proof in a reasonable time that it is taking measures to effectively suppress abuse of human rights and, failing to do so, that Canada will reopen the question of Greece's participation in the NATO alliance?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will be discussing this matter and the statement I made today with the Greek Ambassador who will be calling on me this afternoon. I will, of course, be urging upon him the importance to Greece as well as to the alliance that the government of that country should support the principles of human rights and democratic freedoms. It would not be my purpose, however, to raise that question at the NATO alliance, but of course it may be raised. As I said in my statement, I see very little purpose