

Inquiries of the Ministry

graded incentive allowances for inmates of Ontario reformatories, is it the intention of the government to introduce a similar program for inmates of federal penitentiaries?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for a statement of policy. I would think the question should be put on the order paper or the hon. member should invite the minister to make a statement on motions.

Mr. Gilbert: As a supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might ask a different question.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Solicitor General whether the government has considered the introduction of legislation to introduce or upgrade incentive allowances for inmates in federal penitentiaries?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, some consideration has been given to this. No decision has been taken by the government with respect to it.

TRADE

BARLEY—ACTION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have an urgent question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but because of his absence for the last couple of days I would direct it to the Prime Minister. In light of the decline in barley sales of some 11 million bushels so far this year as compared with the same period last year, is the government giving consideration to sending a trade delegation to visit our traditional barley markets with a view to accelerating the disposal of some 200 million bushels in storage in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am advised by the minister that, after his talks yesterday, he intends to make a statement in the house tomorrow on the subject of grains.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TELEVISION INTERVIEWS IN AREA ADJACENT TO CHAMBER

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister concerning a subject which I think the house can no longer ignore, namely the extension immediately outside the precincts of the house of its proceedings, through the use of electronic media. Would the Prime Minister and his colleagues consider this

issue, and possibly through the house leader indicate some way by which the house could itself debate the matter and possibly come to a decision on it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure how much it is under the authority of the government or of Mr. Speaker, but I will look into the matter. I do not believe it is so much a question of reaching a decision—because the decision is that we have no television in the house—as it is whether we should change the present situation, and that is something we will consider in due course.

FINANCE

ALLEGED ATTEMPT BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO CONTROL CAPITAL MARKET

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has his attention been drawn to a statement made by an executive of the Bank of Nova Scotia to the effect that the financial institutions have deliberately attracted savings to themselves to keep the government from having access to Canadian savings? If so, does the minister intend to make an investigation into these attempts to control the Canadian capital market?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a very general question and I would prefer to look at the particular article in question before commenting on it. I should say that the government of Canada has not had any general difficulty in borrowing funds. This has not been a great problem. The problem has related to the interest that all borrowers in this country and in the world must pay.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the government is going to have to go to the market in respect of a bond issue, will the minister look into the situation, in case this attempt goes against the government bond issue?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In view of the statement he made recently in Toronto, to the effect that the government is facing great difficulties in keeping the public well informed about its activities, would