

Oral Questions

Paper or give notice, I will take note of the particular cases he brings forward and see if they indeed appear justified or not.

Returning to my earlier answer, I fail to understand the idea that Senator Argue, who is a member of the Cabinet, would not have some authority in spending these funds. It is the Government's mandate to make sure that the moneys are spent. Most of the time we need the help of the Civil Service. If a case is so clear that it can be dealt with directly, I do not see anything obnoxious in that, providing it is done with the objective of the law and the Budget in mind, which is to create jobs in a fair way.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS**

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Many Canadian women and children are living in difficult situations because the courts are not enforcing maintenance orders against husbands. Can the Minister say whether any progress is being made in his consultations with the provinces on this matter?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend indicated in her question, there is a fair share of provincial responsibility in this matter. It would not be telling any secrets out of court to indicate that in recent years the provinces have not been very forthcoming with respect to proposals to end the problem. As far as the federal Government is concerned, it is prepared to accept in principle the notion of a national register of divorce orders and other ancillary orders, such as maintenance, custody, and other provincial orders. As a result of discussions between Deputy Attorneys General in the last two days, I believe considerable progress has been made in moving in this direction.

I would like to pay particular tribute to my colleague, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, for helping to break the logjam. I think the logjam has been broken. Within some months we will perhaps be able to look forward to the establishment of such a program.

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PENITENTIARIES**INCREASED VIOLENCE IN KINGSTON INSTITUTIONS**

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It concerns the fact that there have been as many killings and stabbings in the federal penitentiaries in the Kingston area during the first month of this year as there were in the whole of last year. Custodial officers, rehabilitative agencies, and the crown prosecutor of Frontenac County all claim the situation is out of control. What assurance is there to anyone in the system, or indeed in the community, that this increasing violence is going to be contained?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. lady that I am very concerned about the situation in the penitentiaries in the Kingston area. A short time ago I asked to have a special inquiry established within the Correctional Service of Canada, through the normal mechanisms. That special inquiry will, hopefully, begin within the next few days. I have just approved the terms of reference in the last week.

I am looking forward to a very intensive study being done of the causes of disorder in such institutions to try to get to the bottom of the situation and see if it is possible, in places where very dangerous people are incarcerated for very long periods of time, to reduce the number of violent incidents that have been occurring.

NATURE OF VIOLENCE

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, will the Solicitor General indicate whether this inquiry will have included in its terms of reference any assessment of the changing nature of violence within the penitentiary system? I am sure he is aware of that. Is that assessment included? If not, will he take a look at the terms of reference again to see that it is included?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Member what she means by "changing nature of violence" within the institutions. That will be one of the matters that will be looked into. I would not want to put as a premise of the inquiry that there is a change in the nature of the violence in the institutions.

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FISHERIES**RESTRUCTURING OF NOVA SCOTIA INDUSTRY—EFFECT ON RIVERPORT SCALLOP FLEET**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Nova Scotia's fishing industry has now been restructured without the federal Government holding controlling interest as planned by the architect of the Kirby Commission, who was rewarded for his efforts with a seat in the Senate. What effect will the restructuring change in Nova Scotia have relative to the over-all Atlantic fisheries restructuring program, especially as the plan relates to the scallop fleet based at Riverport, Nova Scotia? At Riverport two ships have already been sold, and the balance of the fleet is now in doubt. Will the Minister inform us about that particular situation?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Hon. Member that the decision of Cabinet has been to find new private investors. It was only when the private investors failed to come forward that the Government of Nova Scotia, the Government of Canada, and the Bank of Nova Scotia made the agreement in Port Hawkesbury last September. It was only in December