

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

PENITENTIARIES**CONDITIONS AT MILLHAVEN INSTITUTION**

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) has taken an unprecedented step in hiring unqualified commissionaires at Millhaven, one of Canada's maximum security penitentiaries. The hiring of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires Inc. was not a local decision but one made in Ottawa, and, as the Minister told this House on Friday, he himself approved that policy of replacing professional staff with part-time, unqualified personnel. This is irresponsible and can only add to an already unstable situation.

Since my questioning of the Minister on Friday, another inmate was murdered over the weekend.

Every position in a maximum security institution is of crucial importance, especially to the staff who have to be locked up with dangerous individuals. The institution is now under control only because all privileges have been suspended. This will not address the situation, because as soon as the lock-up is discontinued the murders will continue. It is common knowledge in Millhaven that two inmates were to be terminated last Friday but only one was actually murdered.

It is disgraceful that drugs and alcohol are as available as they are in this institution. The problem lies in the unnecessary large number of outside visitors being permitted in the institution. There visitors are not properly checked for contraband, and therefore no one within this institution is safe. An institution with Canada's most dangerous criminals run in such a manner is shameful.

It must be pointed out also that the local administration at the institution is not at fault; it is the attitude of senior correctional officials who intimidate officers with the threat of early retirements, transfer, or dismissal if unreasonable orders from Ottawa are not carried out—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES**SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE**

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, Canadians have much to celebrate in this, the Year of Tourism. New-

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foundland, Quebec, and Ontario will celebrate their respective anniversaries. The Ontario Provincial Police marks its seventy-fifth anniversary, and in my riding Barrie celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary as a city.

April 1 will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force, which officially came into being on April 1, 1924, as a permanent service at Canadian Forces Base Borden. The Air Force was responsible for the mapping of Canada's North, its members fought valiantly in two world wars, and it is today in the forefront of Canada's efforts in aerospace technology. The first flying school in Canada, established in 1917 at Base Borden, now trains both aerospace and Army ordnance personnel.

The Air Force celebrations are especially significant for the constituents of Simcoe South, home of Base Borden. Over all, military and civilian salaries, combined with defence spending, inject about \$100 million into the local economy. Last year 20,000 students passed through the training facilities at Base Borden, highlighting its significant contributions to Canada's military efforts.

Base Borden is as integral a part of my riding as it is of the Canadian Armed Forces. I am proud to be its representative in Parliament. Congratulations on the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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VIA RAIL**CALL FOR RESTORATION OF STOP AT ITUNA, SASK.**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago, VIA, under the then Minister of Transport, Jean-Luc Pepin, decided to end its transcontinental passenger service. The people of Melville and other communities across the West fought very hard to have that passenger service reinstated, which will happen in June of this year. It is reinstated because of the tremendous fight put up by a number of communities for that passenger service.

My appeal today, Mr. Speaker, is that the passenger train stop at the small town of Ituna. It always used to do so in the past, and people from that community and surrounding communities could always take a train to wherever they were going. Then VIA comes back it will not be stopping at Ituna; it will only stop at Melville. People in the Town of Ituna and the surrounding communities have been circulating petitions and writing letters asking that there be at least a conditional stop, a flag stop, for that particular community.

What is very important to realize is that there are several thousands of people living not just in the town but in the small villages and farm communities in the surrounding area. They do not even have direct bus service to places like Regina. I would like to appeal now to fellow Hon. Members of Parliament, to the CTC, and to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy), that when VIA comes back in the month of June it