Oral Questions

which we are responsible are those relating to the RCMP. These are costs of equipment, men and facilities, and they do not relate to the other three groups involved in security.

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PENITENTIARIES

PROPOSED INSTITUTION AT MORNA, NEW BRUNSWICK— GOVERNMENT POSITION IN VIEW OF OBJECTIONS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, in view of the objection of the people of the Morna neighbourhood community to the choice of their area for the location of a minimum security institution, I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether he has abandoned plans for the construction of the institution at that location?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker, not at this point because we have received approval in principle from the New Brunswick provincial government and from certain persons associated with the government of the city of Saint John. I understand there will be a further meeting of the council of the city of Saint John very shortly and we will await the decision that follows that meeting. If there is overwhelming objection to the site we will then consider withdrawing it.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

DATE OF ORDER GRANTING PAY INCREASES TO EXECUTIVE CATEGORY—SUGGESTED RECONSIDERATION OF AMOUNT OF INCREASE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the President of the Treasury Board confirmed in the House on Tuesday that senior civil servants had received very large pay increases of up to \$6,500 I should like to know whether the order granting all or part of the increases was actually signed on October 14, the day after the Prime Minister's televised statement?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I said recently, this decision was approved by the Cabinet in the month of July and the process of salary level selection went on during the following days. I do not know exactly when. The order to which the hon. member is referring was signed but I did not sign it myself at that time, I am sure of that. Besides, the agreement is for one year only. From April 1, 1976, the parties will be governed by the white paper guidelines. The holders of such positions will not be entitled to more than \$2,400 a year.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, if the minister does not know whether he signed all the agreements, and in view of the new regulations, will he tell the House whether he has reconsidered some of the very large increases that have been recommended in order to obtain more equity within the public service of this country?

[Mr. Allmand.]

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, this decision had been made by the Cabinet in the month of July. It is not possible to review it right now.

[English]

NEGOTIATIONS OF AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS GROUPS—NEED FOR INSTRUCTION ON WAGE GUIDELINES

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board which arises from a similar difficulty regarding the date of the signing of an agreement and the purport of the interpretation to be placed on page 20 of the white paper in respect of the matter of special considerations. Will the minister undertake to investigate the case presently before the conciliation board of the aircraft operation group of the Professional Institute of the Public Service, who are having some difficulty, as well as the chairman of the board, in interpreting page 20 and the provisions thereon? Perhaps he could give instructions to the Treasury Board negotiators on this matter so the chairman of the board can deal properly with this question that has been brought to the minister's attention.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I will inquire and if I can be useful in this matter, I will readily do so, but I do not know whether it is possible. Anyhow, if a collective agreement has been signed by that group, it could be reviewed by the board which we have just set up.

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE UNITED STATES WILL NOT DELAY CLEAN-UP PROGRAM FOR GREAT LAKES

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Does she feel confident that her representations to the United States Government have been successful in assuring that the environmental program for the Great Lakes, through an agreement with the United States, will not be delayed, reduced or watered down in any way?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, during our talks with Mr. Kissinger, reference was made to the agreement which Canada signed with the United States to clean the Great Lakes. He renewed the assurances already given by Mr. Train that the United States would try once more to make up slippage in the allocation of funds under that agreement.