

Canada represents a very important step in those negotiations. We have heard that the council of ministers of the EEC has approved the principle of negotiations between the Community and Canada, and President Ortoli, my ministers and myself are discussing the exact date when they could begin. We hope very much it will be soon. I am confident that, at the end of the meeting with President Ortoli, we will be in a position to announce the date.

* * *

[English]

PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—POSSIBLE USE OF SPECIAL TACTICAL UNIT TO DEAL WITH INCIDENT INVOLVING SEIZURE OF HOSTAGES

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Solicitor General is somewhat supplementary to the questions that were asked concerning the unfortunate hostage incident at the British Columbia penitentiary this morning. Following the Mary Steinhauer incident a special tactical squad was developed outside the penitentiary to deal with this kind of specific incident. It was attached to the co-ordinating law enforcement unit. I wonder if the Solicitor General could advise the House whether in this incident it is the intention to use the special squad that has been trained in terms of hostage-taking incidents which involves people outside the penitentiary.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, officials of the penitentiary service have been in touch with the British Columbia government with respect to this tactical squad and I am waiting for further information on its use.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—POSSIBILITY OF APPEALING JUDGMENT CONCERNING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT—CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIAL UNITS FOR DANGEROUS INMATES

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Solicitor General concerning this new crisis in the British Columbia penitentiary. Since Lucas and Wilson participated in the last fatal crisis in which Mary Steinhauer died, and since they have openly declared repeatedly that they have nothing to lose, could the Solicitor General state whether security was diminished in compliance with that celebrated solitary confinement judgment; will he appeal that judgment; and is he considering a special correctional unit for the 2 per cent or 3 per cent like Wilson and Lucas in the Canadian prison system who are too dangerous to be in the general prison population?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should point out to the hon. member that Mr. Wilson is not involved in this particular incident. The three inmates involved are Lucas, Bruce and Lowe. Wilson was one of the three in the last incident but is not involved here. With respect to security, as I pointed out in my earlier answer, these three inmates who have taken the hostages were in segregation and not allowed to leave the segregated area at

Oral Questions

any time. In the last case, they were in the general population.

In answer to the further question by the hon. member we are going forward with smaller, maximum security institutions. We have just approved a site for two maximum security institutions, one in Agassiz and one in Lillooet.

* * *

ENERGY

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REPORTS ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Several weeks ago the minister undertook both inside the House and outside the House, to release reports on the position of the department relating to various radioactive disposal sites across the country and to give the specific locations of the high radioactive readings in the Port Hope area. Can these reports now be released and if not, why not?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I expect to table these reports following the question period today.

* * *

TRANSPORT

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport if the government is contemplating an increase in the St. Lawrence seaway tolls as has been mentioned in the press?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the question of such an increase has not yet come before the cabinet for consideration. We are planning to look at the whole question of capitalization of the seaway and its basis of operation, but I do not know how many weeks that will take.

Mr. Murta: A supplementary question. In that case would the minister assure the House that there will not be an increase for the 1976 shipping season; in other words, a decision will not be made before April 1, 1976.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the hon. member's representations. If any increase is considered, timing is one of the issues to be taken into account.

* * *

HOUSING

REASON FOR ESTABLISHING LOW VACANCY RATE GOAL FOR APARTMENTS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs