Oral Questions

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CORONER'S INQUEST INTO MURDER OF CELIA RUYGROK

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. I would like to return to the answer he gave to my colleague, the Hon. Member for York South—Weston, because I could not believe my ears. Did the Minister actually say that nothing has been done following the killing by Sweeney at the halfway house in Ottawa and that he is waiting for the report of an inquest before taking any action at all, in spite of the obvious evidence that procedures needed to be corrected and tightened up to prevent a murderer in a situation like that from being delivered to a halfway house with no warning? Surely something was done and the Minister should correct the answer he gave that he was waiting for an inquest report.

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has made an incorrect assumption. What I said is I have naturally not answered the evidence brought out at the inquest because I have not seen the jury's recommendations in that regard. Obviously, I cannot do anything until they come out. However, in anticipation of that, I have already asked my Deputy Minister to review the recommendations immediately and report to me once they come.

I can assure the Hon. Member that immediately following the death there was an immediate investigation carried out into the procedures at that halfway house. A number of recommendations were made and they have been and were acted upon immediately.

MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, with an incident as serious as this, I think the House is entitled to be told, and the question to be answered, what was done as a result of that tragic death to tighten up the system.

Mr. Gauthier: What did you do?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am quite prepared to list, and I will obtain for the Hon. Member, the recommendations which were made as a result of that inquiry, and the measures we took. I do not have them with me today but I will be quite glad to furnish them immediately to the Hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: The last question will be from the Hon. Member for London—Middlesex (Mr. Clifford).

CANADA POST CORPORATION

DESECRATION OF VETERAN'S PLAQUE IN HIGHBURY POST OFFICE, LONDON

Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Post Office. The Minister is aware that a veteran's plaque located in the Highbury Post Office processing plant in London was recently desecrated, defaced and trashed. Will the Minister undertake to the House to investigate this incident and install the restored plaque in a prominent place in the Dominion Building in downtown London?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did ask the Post Office to conduct an investigation, which it is doing. It assures me it was not on anyone's orders from management. It still has not determined who in fact did take the plaque down and who desecrated it but, indeed, it is the intention to have that plaque properly restored to a position of honour.

Mr. Speaker: There are several questions of privilege which the Chair will now hear.

[Translation]

POINT OF ORDER

CORRECTION TO ANSWER GIVEN DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) on a point of order.

Mr. Bouchard: Mr. Speaker, this is just to correct the answer I gave earlier about 21.5 per cent of the jobs created in Toronto. This should be for three years, not just for one year.

[English]

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, since it relates to the same point of order raised by the Minister, I have the April statistics from Statistics Canada which indicate that the unemployment rate in Windsor, contrary to what the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) said, is 9.9 per cent compared to 9.8 per cent nationally and compared to 4.5 per cent in the City of Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, of course, appreciate factual representations and we are indebted to the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon). However, I think we are getting into debate.

I have several notices of points of order and questions of privilege. I want to assure Hon. Members that the Chair will recognize each Member who wishes to rise, but the Chair cannot recognize them all at the same time.