

reconvened. Should it so decide, then of course we would give further consideration to the situation.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask a supplementary question. If the new government of Laos, which has been recognized by the government of the United States and, I think, by implication by the United Kingdom, agreed to the commission being reconvened, what would be the policy of the government of Canada?

Mr. Green: That is a hypothetical question. If the Laotian government requests that the commission should be reconvened we would look into all the circumstances at that time and make our decision accordingly.

(Translation):

PENITENTIARIES

ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOUR CODE FOR INMATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Rodrigue Bourdages (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fulton), but first, I should like to take this opportunity, as this is the last sitting before the Christmas holidays, to offer to each and everyone my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope all hon. members will be offering their family as magnificent a gift as the one we were presented with last night by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming).

My question is this. Could the Minister of Justice tell me whether the penitentiaries division has made arrangements with the national capital commission for building a work camp for prisoners in the national park, and whether such camp would have unfavourable effects on employment in the Gatineau area?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question.

In accordance with our progressive policy in correctional matters which was announced recently, we intend to develop correctional work camps in several parts of Canada. In such camps, carefully selected prisoners with a positive attitude towards authority and willing to co-operate in their successful rehabilitation will be given the opportunity to work under less strict conditions than in penitentiaries.

The possibility of having work done in the Gatineau park has been explored in co-operation with the national capital commission.

The government believes in the principles underlying such rehabilitation projects and

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their use for resources conservation purposes. However, in the study of each particular project, we apply the following test. Is it excepted that the project, within about ten years, would be carried out by regular workers and paid for out of public funds? If the answer is yes, it is not undertaken by prisoners.

(Text):

TRADE

CUBA—U.S. COMPLAINT RESPECTING ATTITUDE OF MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and ask if he would comment on the complaint contained in the December 20 issue of the Washington newsletter "Through Canadian Eyes" to the effect that the United States understanding of the Canadian position concerning trade with Cuba was hindered by—and I quote—"the exuberance of trade and commerce minister Hees in his public adoration of the Cuban trade mission."

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would not want to comment on an article I have not seen, but let me say that I have no liking or admiration for the Castro regime. I was referring exclusively to the type of deal they had offered, which was to buy non-strategic, regular Canadian goods for cash, a deal that would provide jobs for Canadians, something to which the opposition is obviously very definitely opposed.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the last part of the minister's answer was completely gratuitous and not relevant to the question, since the question was directed to the damage done to United States-Canada relations by the minister's statement. The point did not relate at all to the attitude of the opposition to Cuban trade.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order or does he wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. McIlraith: I was rising on a point of order. My point of order was that I be permitted to ask the minister to answer the question. Second, it was to request that the last part of the minister's answer including his gratuitous comments be stricken from the record.

Mr. Speaker: I did observe that the minister made a statement at the end of his answer which in my view was not a factual reply to the question. Whether the house