

Oral Questions

whether he has looked into the matter of Nichols and Gamble, one of whom was on a charge of murder and the other attempted murder, who came to Calgary while on bail and robbed a credit union, murdered a police officer and held two civilians for 47 hours as hostages. Has he worked out with the attorneys general of the provinces a plan to use their judicial discretion in favour of public safety—I emphasize that—rather than in favour of criminal violators. The new bill is not the solution because the discretion will be exercised by the same judges. What is the answer?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as a courtesy from the Attorney General of British Columbia I received a full report from Mr. Gardorn on the particular case to which the hon. member referred. The two alleged gentlemen to whom the hon. member refers applied for bail and their bail applications were contested by the provincially appointed Crown counsel at the time. However, a decision was made by the magistrate involved to allow them out on bail. As the hon. member knows, effective April 26 the bail changes I proposed to Parliament came into effect. They are designed specifically to avoid a situation such as that at Calgary. I have urged publicly and with the attorneys general that their Crown prosecutors across the country take note of those provisions and use them effectively because it seems to me that the changes made in Bill C-71 give Crown counsel a proper argument to use before any Justice of the Peace or magistrate that people who are a danger to the public should be kept in jail pending trial. I would hope Crown attorneys across this country will take note of my remarks.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALLEGED INQUIRIES ABOUT MEMBERS BY PRIVATE
DETECTIVES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

Since in the course of matters recently considered by Parliament some allegations were made that private agencies or detectives were hired by some Canadians to investigate the behaviour of members, could the Solicitor General tell the House what he intends to do to make sure that no member is subjected to undue investigations from private detectives or agencies and that the rights and privileges of parliamentarians are always respected in an institution where freedom of action and speech is the very basis of our political system?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that a private detective agency has been hired by certain political figures or parties to investigate—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is very interesting.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I cannot hear the Solicitor General. I must say the reason I cannot is that the noise is coming from behind him, rather than from across the aisle.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that a private detective agency or agencies have been hired and have investigated members, not only in respect of their public but their personal lives. I intend to have this looked into as quickly as possible.

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FINANCE

PROPOSED ADVICE TO CANADIAN BANKS NOT TO
PARTICIPATE IN LOAN TO CHILE

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I am suffering from a slight cold. For that reason I am waiting until the hubbub subsides before I put my question. Mr. Speaker, I would put my question to the Acting Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance or perhaps to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Is the minister aware that according to the *Wall Street Journal* and other sources, Canadian banks are proposing to join with United States financial institutions in the making of loans of \$100 million to \$125 million to Chile, and in light of the repeated condemnation by the Canadian government of that régime which is based upon oppression and torture, and in view also of the grave financial and economic conditions in Chile where there is enormous debt and rampant inflation, will he advise any Canadian banks that it would be wrong as well as unwise for Canadian banks to be involved in any such loans.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the report nor am I in a position to judge its authenticity. However, I will certainly take up the matter.

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MUSEUMS

REASON FOR DISMISSAL OF SOME EMPLOYEES—POSSIBILITY
OF TRANSFERS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State of which I have given him informal notice a couple of hours ago. Notification of dismissals has been given by the National Museums Branch to many public servants who have long tenure. Will the minister explain the rationalization of this move and whether the public servants involved will have some security in other elements of the public service.

● (1440)

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Yes, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. As he has noted in his question, no career public servants have in fact been laid off at this point. As the result of the restraint program, 28 positions have been designated as redundant and over the next three months the corporation will try to find work for the 28 in question.