

PENITENTIARIES

REASON FOR TRANSFERRING TWO INMATES FROM ARCHAMBAULT TO WARKWORTH—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Could the Solicitor General explain to the House what possible justification there can be for transferring, under pressure, two dangerous criminals from Archambault maximum security prison to the Warkworth medium security institution which is not designed or operated to handle this kind of criminal?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the decision was made late last night. In the process of negotiations, the inmates had put several demands to the authorities. All the other demands were rejected. However, this demand was accepted only on the condition that when they went to Warkworth they would be given a security classification test and that there would be no guarantee they would stay there if they did not meet the classification. One of the inmates had been at Warkworth and had asked to go back there. We told them that in these circumstances, to resolve the hostage-taking incident, we would send them there but there was no guarantee they would stay there if they did not meet the criteria of the institution.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious why the criminals concerned asked to go to Warkworth. It is a completely different type of institution. I would ask the minister would he not agree that this display of weakness on the part of the government will invite similar violent pressure by dangerous criminals in maximum security institutions to be transferred to medium security institutions which are not in any way designed to handle this type of criminal whose lifestyle is completely different. If the Solicitor General has any doubts about the kind of lifestyle in these medium security institutions, I suggest he ask Harold Ballard of Maple Leaf Gardens.

● (1440)

Mr. Allmand: It was exactly for those reasons that we would not give them any guarantee that they would stay at Warkworth, and it was considered that if they were willing to go to Warkworth, even for a short period of time, it was a good way to resolve the conflict and possibly to save two lives.

Mr. Hees: I am sure the minister is confident that they will not stay in Warkworth long because this type of criminal is the kind who will probably lead a jail break out of Warkworth in the very near future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED DEPLOYMENT OF SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP IN NEWFOUNDLAND—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National

Oral Questions

Defence. In view of the fact that there has been another unfortunate incident in which a Canadian fisherman was lost, and in view of the time lag of 20 hours before search and rescue were able to react, I wonder if the minister would, since there have been so many incidents, direct that elements of the search and rescue group be deployed to the province of Newfoundland with aircraft capable of providing surveillance and patrol capability.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into the circumstances surrounding the alleged time lag. With regard to the possibility of deploying search and rescue personnel and equipment to Newfoundland the hon. member will know that we have examined that on a number of occasions in the past. It has not been found to be cost effective.

An hon. Member: What about lives?

Mr. Richardson: However, my colleague, the Minister of Transport, and I have been examining on an urgent basis ways in which we can improve the search and rescue capability, and the comments of the hon. member will be kept in mind.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Life is involved.

Mr. Marshall: It is difficult to imagine why a price tag should be put on the saving of lives or the capability to save lives.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Marshall: I emphasize that since the first of the year there has been only one rescue out of seven operations by airsea rescue, and everything points to the fact that the reaction time between leaving Halifax and entering the zone is at least two and a half hours. I hope the minister will reconsider and see the need for deploying the elements to the province of Newfoundland so they can react more quickly and save more lives.

Mr. Richardson: These facts will be borne in mind when the study which is taking place is fully under way.

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HEALTH

MEASURES TO PROTECT VISITORS TO OLYMPIC GAMES AGAINST POLIO—POSSIBLE USE OF SABIN ORAL VACCINE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the great anxiety felt over the discovery of wild viruses of polio, and the fact that only approximately 30 per cent of young people in the province of Ontario have any antibodies against all three types of polio virus and no protection, excepting the neuro-motor system, against the wild viruses of polio, I should like to ask the Minister what steps will be taken to protect those people visiting the Olympic Games in Montreal.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have been assured by Connaught Laboratories that there is a plentiful supply of vaccine.