

Oral Questions

speaking at ten o'clock. If they were anxious to have a vote to refer the bill to committee, they only had to sit down and have a vote. I take the word of the hon. member that his party has only one more speaker remaining. I hope my House leader is aware of this, and in the usual discussions between representatives of each party, perhaps the House leaders could agree to have one more speaker per party and then refer the bill to committee.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**REQUEST FOR SEVERER PROVISIONS AGAINST PROSTITUTION**

Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Montreal-Mercier): Madam Speaker, a number of Canadian mayors are urging the government to introduce stricter measures in the Criminal Code with respect to prostitution. Could the Minister of Justice inform the House, using his department's statistics, whether any procurers or operators of common bawdy-houses have been convicted under the present strict provisions of the Criminal Code, or whether the legislation is mainly enforced with respect to women who are already being exploited by society, and could he inform us whether he intends to take any action to remedy the situation in the near future?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, as I said yesterday, the matter is before the committee which is considering Bill C-53, and I think the hon. member's question could be answered in committee. I have no statistics right now on the number of arrests, but I am willing to co-operate with the hon. member at the committee's meetings and to give her the information requested, if necessary.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn), for a supplementary.

POSITION OF MINISTER

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice.

[English]

Does the government have a position with respect to whether or not it is appropriate to amend the Criminal Code with respect to solicitation for the purposes of prostitution, or does the Minister of Justice have no opinion on the matter at all?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, at the request of hon. members of the House I referred the matter to the committee for study. I want the views of the committee. I have my own views. I am willing to discuss them with the

committee. At the request of an hon. member from Vancouver Centre and others I decided to refer the matter for study because there is a controversy. There have been decisions made by courts which have made it very difficult in some parts of Canada to prosecute for solicitation. In other parts some provincial municipal by-laws have been accepted by the courts. This is the case in Alberta, and some provincial laws have been accepted by the courts in Nova Scotia. Therefore it is a most difficult and comprehensive problem. That is why I asked the committee to look into it. I am looking for the wisdom of the committee, including that of the hon. member.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**DELAY IN ON-RESERVE HOUSING PROGRAM**

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. This year in Saskatchewan alone, 505 houses were allocated to Indian bands. As of today not one housing project has commenced. The on-reserve housing program has been blocked because of circular J-1 which was unilaterally imposed on this year's housing program. Will the minister please suspend the J-1 circular for this year so that housing projects may begin, and promise that consultation will take place with Indian bands before the re-introduction of the J-1 circular?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that consultation is going on with the Indian people with respect to the implications of the J circular. The problem is that the J circular calls for the commitment of all funds from every source in addition to the moneys from the Department of Indian Affairs before a house can go up. This is good in one sense. We know that houses will go up, but the situation causes delays. I am fully aware of that, as are the Indian people. We are seeing what can be done about it.

Mr. Anguish: Madam Speaker, I hope the minister will take the matter under advisement, act as he said he will, and rectify this very serious problem.

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL AT DILLON, SASK.

Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question concerns a commitment which the minister made to the Buffalo River band at Dillon which, because of its special situation, was to build the school in Dillon according to provincial standards instead of the inferior federal standards in place now. Will the minister have this school built according to the commitment he made? When will the minister meet with the band to sort out this very real problem?