

Solicitor General's inmates originally sentenced in 1965 for the sex strangling death of a five year old girl. This prisoner was let out on a pass to participate in a children's play. At large for 20 days this individual murdered again and was given a second life sentence. Again this dangerous inmate was let out on a pass and recently committed armed robbery and forcible seizure. Can the Solicitor General advise whether Roy D. Kully was let out on repeated passes in accordance with some new regulations or is this another case of tragic negligence on the part of the Solicitor General and his officials?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will look into that case but I must advise the House that under the bill that we passed, the capital punishment bill last year, a convicted murderer is not eligible for a temporary absence pass until two years prior to his eligibility date for parole, which would mean at least eight years. I do not know what the facts of this case are but I will investigate. I do not know how he would be out on a pass.

Mr. O'Sullivan: Mr. Speaker, in view of the case just mentioned, and that cited yesterday by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe, in which Montreal police are looking for one Arthur Gagné, a murderer also let out on a pass and is now suspected of participating in a double murder over the weekend, bearing in mind such tragic occurrences, will the minister now advise his officials to tighten up or eliminate procedures whereby passes are so frequently given to those serving life sentences for murder?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I must inform the House that measures have been taken over the last few years to tighten up on the temporary absence pass program. This was a very unfortunate incident which happened in Montreal recently and, as the hon. member knows, the man in question, Mr. Gagné, is a suspect in this case and has not yet been either arrested, charged or found guilty. From what I read in the papers the evidence is just fragmentary. Let me say that in addition to that, under the temporary absence program generally last year we had over 60,000 temporary absence passes with a failure rate of approximately one per cent, which is a very high rate of success.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: I am sure the families involved are not interested.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it is just unfortunate that there are incidents like this one, but we will continue to improve our program. I am not sure whether the hon. member is suggesting that we should end it altogether. I do not know whether that is Conservative policy.

An hon. Member: We want to know your policy.

Privilege—Mr. J.-P. Guay

CRIMINAL CODE

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN PROVISION TO DEAL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TWICE CONVICTED OF MURDER

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, because of the position I have taken for a long time in reference to people who have been convicted of murder getting out on these temporary passes I should like to put a supplementary question either to the Prime Minister, who is now leaving, or the Solicitor General.

Mr. Trudeau: I am not leaving. I am here. I was not leaving, I was just going to talk to another minister.

Mr. Hees: Well, you won't miss anything.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he will consider changing the law so that anyone who is convicted of a second offence of murder and is sentenced to life it will mean life, that he is taken out of our society or, in the alternative, will he bring back capital punishment in respect of those persons who are convicted of murder twice in a row?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I saw several members in the opposition benches applauding that question. I must say I was on my way and did not hear the preamble, but I doubt whether it supported the conclusion.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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PRIVILEGE

MR. J.-P. GUAY—RIGHT OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES TO ASK QUESTIONS DURING ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, for several days I have been trying to ask a question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Ask it at caucus tomorrow.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is a very important one and has reference to the \$500 grant—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member is rising on a question of privilege regarding not being recognized, I would be pleased to deal with it. But it is not the subject matter or the importance of the question that is involved, because every day there are several hon. members whose questions, I am sure, are extremely important but they are not recognized.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I should like to repeat that I have tried