

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STABBING OF GUARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Justice if he is in a position to reply to my question of last Friday concerning a report on the fatal stabbing of a guard at the penitentiary at Dorchester?

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am now in a position to inform the house that yesterday Mr. D. M. McLean, regional director of penitentiaries for the Ontario region, was appointed as a commissioner of inquiry and is proceeding to Dorchester penitentiary to inquire into, and report upon, the circumstances of the alleged murder of Edwin James Masterton, a guard at Dorchester penitentiary. I think Mr. McLean's report will be in our hands within the next ten days. The young inmate named Colpitts was arraigned at court in the Dorchester county jail on Friday, September 25, charged with capital murder. He is being held in Dorchester penitentiary until such time as his case has been before the grand jury.

**Mr. Coates:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister plan to take any special action to eliminate the inmate arsenals which the hon. member for Vancouver East indicated recently were a fact in federal penal institutions and can be pointed to as the prime cause of this fatal incident?

**Mr. Favreau:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to receive the report and study it before answering that question.

**SPORTS**

REQUEST FOR GRANT FOR 1966 QUEBEC FESTIVAL

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary question concerning another matter. During his meeting with Hon. Paul Gérin-Lajoie, was there any discussion of the famous Quebec winter games problem, the solution to which is most impatiently awaited and urgent?

[*Text*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the same decision should apply to the hon. member for Lotbinière. Order paper.

was done on the occasion of the last visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a one month amnesty for each year of sentence to all prisoners in federal and provincial jails in Canada?

**Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, in that regard I must say that one of my predecessors in the Department of Justice, Hon. Davie Fulton, on the occasion of the last royal visit, when the provisions of the Parole Act were just being implemented, announced in a statement made on behalf of the government of that time, that it was the last amnesty to be granted on the occasion of a royal visit.

I looked into the matter, as the government also did, and I must say that for the reasons then mentioned by Hon. Davie Fulton, it is also the opinion of this government that in view of the implementation of the Parole Act these last six years, it would not be proper that an amnesty be granted this year on the occasion of the royal visit, and that is the recommendation that will be made.

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice a supplementary question.

Could he tell us on what date such a decision was made?

**Mr. Favreau:** It was in 1959 and I believe the press release was issued two weeks prior to the royal visit.

**Mr. Balcer:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister of Justice, but my question concerned this government's decision not to grant an amnesty.

**Mr. Favreau:** I do not know the exact date, Mr. Speaker, but it was made during a cabinet meeting held some time last week.

[*Text*]

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENT OF PAROLE ACT

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Rémi Paul (Berthier-Maskinongé-Delanaudière):** Mr. Speaker, I would have a supplementary question to put to the Minister of Justice.

At his meeting last week on St. Helen's island, with the solicitor general of the province of Quebec, was the amending of the Parole Act discussed?

[*Text*]

**Mr. Speaker:** This surely is a question for the order paper.