

Oral Questions

last year 3,300 federal Public Service sector workers came forward and filed complaints with the Commission. The same can be said of some 500 Government librarians and registered nursing assistants who came forward and obtained a settlement in pursuance of this legislation.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES**

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is the Government planning a review of the conflict of interest guidelines? If so, could the Prime Minister assure the House that the review will take the form of a study by a parliamentary committee and not simply be an in-house review?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Madam Speaker.

POSSIBILITY OF REVIEWS

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, is the Prime Minister saying no to both elements of the question? Specifically, will he answer whether he is planning any form of review of the conflict of interest guidelines as a result of the Gillespie affair?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have been considering the possibility of improving those guidelines. I was certainly distressed at the way in which they have been interpreted in the past few weeks, practically treating former Ministers as non-persons. I would be happy to hear the views of the Opposition as to how we should treat its former Ministers who are lobbying the Government. We have not heard much about that. I am reflecting upon the possibility of looking at those guidelines, of considering improving them. I have made no decision as to how or when it should be done.

INQUIRY RESPECTING REPRESENTATIONS

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Has he received any representations from Michael Pitfield or from any of his Cabinet Ministers with respect to suggestions as to changes in those guidelines?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Madam Speaker, I could say that it is none of the Hon. Member's business, but the answer is no.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**CONSEQUENCES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT**

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Provincial social services Ministers at a meeting recently stated that the federal Young Offenders Act will put thousands of teenagers in jail and deprive them of the chance to rehabilitate and, further, that the Act will jail youths who otherwise would be handled by social workers. Will the Minister advise that this will not be the result of the implementation of the Young Offenders Act?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the disposition of particular cases will remain in the hands of the courts and in the hands of the judges. I was surprised to read that, because the whole purpose of the Young Offenders Act is to open the door wider to community-based corrections in which young people are punished for their crimes in ways other than by incarceration. I think a number of Provinces are unduly emphasizing in their discussions with me the extent to which incarceration ought to be used for young people. My own view is that it should be reserved for crimes of violence, in particular, and for individual young people who cannot be handled in the community in any other way. It should be a last resort. I am disappointed to hear Provinces suggesting that in some cases it ought to be a first resort.

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NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD**PRACTICE OF GATING**

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General about the practice of gating, mandatory supervision. The Minister will know that the Supreme Court of Ontario has said that the practice of gating is illegal, and that the Federal Court has said that it is legal. What is the Minister's view? Does he not agree that, rather than waiting a year or a year and a half for the Supreme Court of Canada to settle the question, he should bring forward legislation in this Chamber immediately to clarify whether or not gating will be permitted?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I agree that gating is a very important power that should reside within the criminal justice system so that those individuals—and there will be a very small number—who approach mandatory supervision and are easily spotted as being walking timebombs, in effect, can be kept behind bars for the whole sentence imposed upon them by the courts. But I do not think that the court's determination will take as long as the Hon. Member suggested.