

Inquiries of the Ministry

the riot in 1962. He was identified as the ring-leader of the riot and sentenced by a criminal court of the province of Quebec to 14 years' imprisonment for destroying government property. Nicholas appealed his sentence, but his appeal was rejected in February, 1964.

Nicholas was in segregation, not in solitary confinement, awaiting trial since 1962. He refused to go out of segregation, and sent a letter to the authorities to the effect that he be kept in segregation. This was obviously for his own protection. The warden did stop the delivery of certain letters written by Nicholas, but only because they were dealing with matters prohibited at the institution. Nicholas wrote to the commissioner last July for a transfer to another institution. He is now at Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that Gaston Nicholas received the maximum sentence under the Criminal Code for the destruction of government property, namely 14 years, compared with the sentences imposed on other participants in that riot who engaged in much more strenuous activity than Mr. Nicholas, does the government have his sentence under review with a view to either pardoning him or providing him with parole?

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, it would of course be wrong for me to comment upon the particular assessment made by the court at the time sentence was pronounced. As far as the matter of parole and review is concerned, this of course is not under the authority of the minister or the Department of Justice. Under the Parole Act it is under the exclusive—and the word “exclusive” is in the act—jurisdiction of the national parole board. However, I will be pleased to inquire and report to the house, if my hon. friend thinks this would be appropriate.

Mr. Hamilton: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I am no authority on the matter of penitentiaries, but one thing does bother me as a Canadian. These prisoners are not allowed to send some letters, under certain rules of the penitentiary. I hope the minister will consider sending me personally some sort of list of the rules and regulations as to the type of letters that prisoners are not allowed to send. I think it is in the interests of the protection of human liberty in these penitentiaries that some of us know what these regulations are; because the thing that disturbs me is that a prisoner cannot write to the head of the penitentiary or to

[Mr. Favreau.]

members of his family in certain circumstances. I would like to know what these regulations are.

Mr. Favreau: Mr. Speaker, that would be a good subject for discussion on Monday. I shall inquire in the meantime, and will be pleased to report then.

DENISE THERRIEN—REQUEST BY QUEBEC
FOR FEDERAL POLICE ASSISTANCE

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Lucien Plourde (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Could he tell the house if he has received from the attorney general of the province of Quebec, a request for assistance from the federal police in conducting an inquiry into the kidnapping of Denise Therrien?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
PARTICIPATION IN TELEVISION PROGRAM
“TELEPOLL”

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I will direct to the Prime Minister because its substance covers more than one department. Will the Prime Minister ascertain from the Canadian National Railways, which are supported annually by millions of dollars supplied by taxation, their justification for joining with C.P.R. telecommunications in sponsoring the production of the “Telepoll” program on C.T.V., which is emphasizing partisan, political broadcasts slanted in favour of the Liberal party.

COMBINES

WINNIPEG—SIGNING OF CONTRACTS BY
YOUNG HOCKEY PLAYERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice, notice of which I gave him several days ago. I would like to ask the minister whether his attention has been drawn to cases in Winnipeg whereby ten year old children desiring to play hockey are forced to sign contracts which tie up their entire hockey careers for life. If so, is the