

Oral Questions

Korean suppliers. I myself will be visiting Korea next week, and I am hoping to deal with a number of textile matters at that time.

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BAIL REFORM ACT

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO RESTRICT BAIL FOR PERSONS INVOLVED IN VIOLENT CRIMES

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice arising from the answer he gave yesterday with respect to the granting of bail to persons charged with, but not convicted of, attempted murder. Does he intend to introduce amendments to the Bail Reform Act which would restrict the power to grant bail in cases where violent crimes are involved, particularly in the light of figures presented in the press today to the effect that since the Bail Reform Act was proclaimed the percentage of those jumping bail has increased from 5 per cent to nearly 30 per cent at the present time, or is it intended simply to clarify the powers of the judiciary without restricting its latitude to grant bail?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Well, Mr. Speaker, the actual clauses will be before the House soon, at which time they can be seen in their context. It is not simply a matter of clarification. It is a case of increasing the likelihood of bail being refused when the public interest seems to require this to happen. It will be proposed, in certain circumstances, to require the accused to show why he should be at large. However, this is meant to be consistent with the general proposition that if it is fairly clear that if no danger to the public is likely to exist, and little likelihood that the accused person will fail to return for his trial, he should have an opportunity to be out on bail.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

POSITION OF CANADA IN RELATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN TERMS OF TIME LOST THROUGH STRIKES—CONFLICT OF STATISTICS

Mr. John Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance have referred to Canada's strike record as being second only to that of Italy, and since the CLC has stated that Canada is only No. 7 among industrial countries in terms of time lost through strikes, can the hon. gentleman tell us which set of statistics his own department is using to measure the incidence of strikes in this country as against that in other countries?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): I am not aware of the press release or other information from the CLC to which the hon. member has just referred. I would have to look into it before I could properly answer his question.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

● (1450)

Mr. Fraser: Through you, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Labour just what is our position in relation to other countries in reference to the last 12 or 18 months? Is it as bad as we have been led to believe, or is the problem much less than has been stated by other members of the government?

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FINANCE

EFFECT OF ISSUANCE OF GOLD OLYMPIC COINS AS LEGAL TENDER—POSSIBILITY OF HARM TO ECONOMIES OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, considering that the gold Olympic coins to be issued under the authority of Bill C-63 will be classified as legal tender, would the Minister of Finance tell the House whether he has changed his stated policy of demoneterizing gold, and has he spoken to the International Monetary Fund about this change in policy?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have checked to see whether the issuance of legal tender in gold would be contrary to our policy, and it is not.

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated to the House of February 20, as recorded at page 3396 of *Hansard*, that a policy of selling gold at the market rather than the official prices would have a disastrous effect on Third World countries. Would the minister tell the House whether he still believes the sale of Olympic coins will hurt the Third World, and has he any plans to stop this harm from taking place?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The answer to that is no, Mr. Speaker, the Olympic coins will sell at face value, they will not sell against the price of gold.

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON REVIEW OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN CANADA

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie, asked the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to comment on some statements by the Minister of Finance with regard to foreign investment. The reply from the minister was that it would be better to ask the Minister of Finance directly. Now that he is back I should like to put that question to him. On May 15 the Minister of Finance stated that the government is reviewing all statutes and policies affecting foreign investments in Canada. Would the minister now inform the House whether, as press reports of his recent statements seem to indicate, such a review has taken place and, if so, what changes does the minister intend to make in foreign investment policies?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is too close to budget night to answer that question.