

vincial conference on the very subject upon which this House is now engaged in debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REASON FOR STAY OF EXECUTIONS OF THREE PERSONS— POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General whether it is correct that the executions of three persons convicted or murder by due process of law have been stayed until July 15? Was the reason for that stay, which is not commutation, that the government intends to bring in a bill to completely abolish capital punishment?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the Governor in Council has granted stays of execution on the sentences of death pronounced upon Messrs. Connearey, Vaillancourt and Chartrand. This request was made because the government intends to present a bill to parliament on the matter of capital punishment and other measures relating to law reform and to crime prevention.

Mr. Woolliams: I would like to have this matter clarified in one important area because I know the Solicitor General has been dancing with this subject. Is it his intention to bring in an omnibus bill in which part will be gun control, to give the public the appearance of getting tough on crime, and in the same bill to put in a measure to abolish capital punishment? Is that the game the Solicitor General is playing with the Canadian public?

Mr. Allmand: The package of measures on this subject will be announced by the Minister of Justice and myself, but no decision has been made as to whether it will be one, two or three bills.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO ENFORCEMENT OF LAW RELATING TO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. One of the more amazing exceptions the Prime Minister made in his statement ten days ago was his commitment to permit growth within police forces. Given the belief of the Prime Minister that all we have to do is groove on goodness, is this exception an indication that he plans to embark on a program of greater general law enforcement without enforcing the law with regard to capital punishment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Oral Questions

● (1440)

HOUSING

PROPOSED GRANTING OF TAX EXEMPTIONS ON MORTGAGE INTEREST IN EXCESS OF SIX PER CENT

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In the minister's tradition of bold inventive housing programs—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Anderson:—can the minister advise the House if consideration is being given to tax exemptions for mortgage rates in excess of 6 per cent for new and existing home owners and if not, would he view such a proposal favourably?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, certainly we do not discount any new approaches but I would not want to indicate a preference until I bring my proposals before parliament.

VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS— FUNDING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and I have given him notice of this matter. In view of the fact that the government has failed thus far to promise funding for the Association in Canada Serving Organization on Human Settlements (ACSOH), the agency responsible for the non-governmental organizations participating in the Habitat conference in Vancouver next year, can the minister now indicate whether the government is prepared to fund this international conference on a proper basis so that all taxpayers of Canada will share the load that will otherwise be an unjust burden on the residents of Vancouver?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for mentioning that subject to me the other day. I have been looking into this matter and there will be adequate funding for ACSOH and other non-government organizations. I cannot answer specifically what portion of that will be funded by LIP grants or employment grants but there will be some very beneficial residual benefits from the conference for Vancouver and Vancouver-Quadra. I will report more completely when I have details of this, but there will be sufficient funding for the non-governmental organizations to do their job well and for the provision of facilities in Vancouver.

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FISHERIES

INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR FISHERMEN—POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State