

PENITENTIARIES

ESCORTED TEMPORARY ABSENCES PROGRAM

Mr. Vince Dantzer (Okanagan North): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that posed by the Hon. Member for Calgary West, and is directed to the Solicitor General. From the Solicitor General's answer, am I to understand that the program for escorted temporary absences, which allows dangerous criminals like murderers and rapists to use their credit cards to buy beer at the local beer parlour during temporary absences, will continue?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, no dangerous offenders are released on escorted temporary absences for re-socialization purposes. They may be excused to go to hospital for an operation, or they may be excused under close escort on a humanitarian basis to attend a funeral or something of that nature. However, relating to the type of socialization absence that was granted in Mr. Boden's case, it was the opinion of the Correctional Service of Canada that Mr. Boden was no longer a dangerous offender. My concern about that was that I felt inadequate attention was paid to the risks to society, which are the concern of the Parole Board in deciding whether or not inmates are to be released. Therefore, one minute early, I am glad to inform the Hon. Member through you, Mr. Speaker, that the new policy will require that the input of the National Parole Board be obtained before offenders can—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister has indicated that he will make a statement later. The Chair would like to recognize one or two other Members.

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FISHERIES

ATLANTIC SALMON STOCK—PREVENTION OF POACHING

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In the 1984 Atlantic Salmon Management Plan the Minister is asking both sports fishermen and commercial fishermen to make great sacrifices for the sake of rebuilding stocks. He is also aware that there is a tremendous enforcement problem with the salmon management program. Under this new program we can expect a rise in black market prices for salmon, which will be a great incentive for over-fishing and poaching. The situation could easily get out of control because the resources are not available for enforcement. What plans, if any, does the Minister have to improve the enforcement program this year? How can he assure the fishermen who abide by the rules of the new program that their sacrifices will not be offset by greater profits for poachers?

● (1200)

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member agrees that the situation is very serious and that the salmon river systems in

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New Brunswick as well as in Quebec and Nova Scotia are really well below their potential. That is why the salmon management plan which I have decided upon this year is one that is in accord with the Muir Report. That report has recommended draconian measures to save the resource. One of the segments of that plan is the release of over 80,000 kilos of salmon from the Atlantic area to the mainland. That should help.

The Hon. Member has referred to poaching, which is certainly a very serious problem. My opinion, as a Member of Parliament for an area which has salmon rivers, is that poaching is not only the responsibility of the state and the Department; it also is the responsibility of the community. People in those communities know who are the poachers. It is their duty as citizens to help our enforcement people. It is a futile exercise to add hundreds and hundreds of enforcement people. If the money is available, of course I will do that, but I think the best tool is the co-operation of the citizens, and 99 per cent of them are law abiding.

POSSIBLE IMPACT OF UNITED STATES OIL LEASE PROGRAM ON WEST COAST FISHERY

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He will know that a note was delivered last week to the State Department in Washington regarding oil leasing lands off the coast of the Alaska Panhandle. I was wondering if the Minister was informed of that note prior to its presentation and, if not, why not. Did he make representations in order that the environmental and fisheries concerns of Canada would be taken into account in the formulation of that note? I would also like a copy of the note presented to the House.

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend will have to take my word for it that decisions made by our Government are decisions that involve all Departments and which are supported by all of us. The Hon. Member may rest assured that the policy that was announced is the Government's official policy.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has gone beyond the hour which is normally permitted and has tried to recognize a number of Members with difficult supplementaries. The Hon. Member may ask a short supplementary.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS IN ALASKA

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I do have a short supplementary. I would like to know whether the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans made representations to the Department of the Interior, when it was holding environmental hearings in February of this year, so as to protect the fish that are spawned in Canada and go through Alaskan waters?