

*Order Paper Questions*

been on the Order Paper for almost a month. It relates to the number of prisoners released from our penal institutions and to certain crimes committed by people who should not be at large. It is of some urgency and I hope an effort will be made to answer this question.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I rise on a point of order having to do with the point raised by my hon. friend from Winnipeg North. It seems to me that what my hon. friend presented was not just a grievance but a request that the rules be followed. In my view there should either be a ruling or an offer by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council to put the answer to that question on record in *Hansard*.

My hon. friend referred to question No. 196, which was a starred question, and according to Standing Order 39(2)(A) he has a right to an oral answer. He did say he was prepared to accept the answer being put on record in *Hansard*, but I really think it is going too far to reply by saying that a return would be tabled. Perhaps the parliamentary secretary would agree to printing the answer in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will realize, I am sure, that the House has already passed an opinion on this matter when an order for return was made. Hon. members were asked whether it was the pleasure of the House that this be done, and it was done. We cannot go back over that ground. Perhaps the suggestion offered by the hon. member could be considered by the parliamentary secretary.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Perhaps there could be unanimous consent that the answer to that starred question be printed in *Hansard*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary suggested that I take up my grievance with the two ministers responsible. Could he be more specific? I think there are about five ministers who might possibly be involved.

**Mr. Cossitt:** I rise on a point of order to call attention to the fact that it will soon be Easter again and that question No. 25 has remained unanswered since last Easter in the old parliament and again in this parliament. It is a simple question. It asks how much was paid from public funds for two specific trips made to the Caribbean for holidays by the Prime Minister and a second trip to Switzerland. Surely, all the bills and accounts have now been received and been paid. I believe I am justified in bringing up this matter again, as I have brought it up on several earlier occasions, without receiving any response from the parliamentary secretary. I think an answer to question 25 should now be available and I can only assume, because it has not been provided, that the government is trying to hide information from the Canadian parliament and the Canadian people. We are getting rather tired of information to which we are entitled being denied us.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Schumacher.]

**Mr. Cossitt:** Members on that side of the House are afraid of the consequences if the Canadian people are given these facts. I believe it is about time we got answers to our questions within a reasonable period of time and not six, eight, or ten months after they have been put down.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Coates:** I do not wish to complain about questions which are still unanswered. I did that a while ago. But something has to be done if there is to be any sense of order in this chamber. What is happening now is what I predicted on Monday would happen, and it will be repeated indefinitely unless things are done properly; hon. members will use devices which go against the rules because the rules are not suitable in meeting the circumstances of the day. We have to move forward along the lines suggested by the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) so as to ensure that Your Honour is not put through the tortures of the damned trying to get us to the business we are supposed to be considering because the government is not handling the affairs of the House properly.

## MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

[English]

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Would Your Honour be so kind as to call Notice of Motion No. 24?

**Mr. Speaker:** Notice of Motion No. 24.

### COPY OF AIR CANADA CONTRACT AS REVISED

Motion No. 24—**Mr. Mazankowski:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the Air Canada contract and all additions, revisions and amendments thereto.

**Mr. John M. Reid (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** The Air Canada contract contains considerable confidential information relating to the organization, operation and maintenance of the Air Canada lines. Air Canada's competitors are not obliged to provide such information or expose their contractual arrangements to similar scrutiny. To place Air Canada in such a disadvantageous position would not be in the public interest. Under these circumstances would the hon. member agree to withdraw the motion?

**Mr. Fairweather:** How can a monopoly be at a disadvantage?

**An hon. Member:** Transfer for debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate. Shall the remaining notices of motion for production of documents be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.