

Oral Questions

Solicitor General advise the House why we in fact have been foot-dragging in respect of creating the new institutions recommended in the Mohr Commission report.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, as I said we approved construction of these institutions some time ago but we have also adopted the policy that we will consult with provincial and municipal governments as well as local M.P.'s when we build institutions. We do that not only with penal institutions but also with airports. When we have not done that we have had much criticism from the opposition side for going ahead with such institutions without consultation.

* * *

[Translation]

OLYMPIC GAMES**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SALE OF OLYMPIC COINS**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General.

Could he tell the House what the present situation is with regard to the sale of olympic coins? Does he still believe that such a means of financing the games will prove to be efficient, and has he considered other means if ever the sale of olympic coins is proven ineffective beyond the shadow of a doubt?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, two years ago this government promised to help finance the games with \$292 million. I am convinced that through the Olympic Lottery, Olympic Coin and Olympic Stamp programs, we shall be putting more than \$300 million into the COJO coffers.

* * *

● (1420)

[English]

ENERGY**GASOLINE—SUGGESTED DELAY OF NINETY DAYS BEFORE IMPOSITION OF TAX TO ALLOW INVENTORIES TO BE EXHAUSTED—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REFINERY INVENTORIES**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In the budget speech of June 23, the Minister of Finance, in announcing an increase in the price of crude oil by \$1.50 a barrel, said that industry is being asked to hold back passing through this increase for 45 days in order that inventories can be worked out. Inasmuch as there is some indication, particularly in the province of Ontario, that inventories are now running perhaps 90 days, will the minister give consideration to re-examining the time before the pass-through will be allowed in order to more accurately reflect the inventory situation and save the Canadian taxpayers from having this increase in price any sooner than necessary?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is true that some of the

[Mr. Leggatt.]

refineries, particularly those of the larger companies, have either in the pipelines or in tanks greater than a 45 day inventory. It is also true that a number of the smaller refineries, Saskatchewan Co-operative for example, have less than 45 days inventory. The 45 day figure used in this context is regarded as the lowest common denominator that would be fair to the small refineries without giving too much advantage to the major refineries. I read, as the hon. member has, the statements made by the Premier of Ontario to the effect that he might put those restrictions on Ontario refineries. That, of course, would be within his jurisdiction if he chose to do so. It would not affect other smaller refineries such as the Saskatchewan Co-operative.

Mr. Gillies: Can the minister make available to the House, possibly by tabling, the information with regard to the inventories of the various refineries across the country?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to seek that information and make it available to the hon. member.

* * *

FINANCE**CASH FLOW REQUIREMENTS TO MEET GASOLINE TAX—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Has provision been made in the money supply for the extra cash flow requirements of dealers and consumers for the 10 cents a gallon gasoline tax or will there be a resulting shortfall in the cash requirements of other sectors of our economy?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is hard to be precise and brief in the question period on that particular question.

Mr. Towers: Can the minister tell this House what the inflationary factor would amount to as a result of the 10 cents per gallon tax on gasoline, not only of the tax itself, but also its administration and the extra costing of cash flow requirements to the distributing and consuming public?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**COMMUTATION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT SENTENCES—NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH MERCY RECOMMENDED**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In his answer to an hon. member, the minister stated that of the six cases since 1968 in which reprieves were granted, there were recommendations to mercy in five instances. At a time like this when morale is very low among police officers and the like, it is sometimes forgotten there can be no action by parliament to interfere with the right of the Queen in her Council to exercise mercy. However, that