

assure the Hon. Member and every Member of the House that the Ministry of the Solicitor General has co-operated fully in that inquiry, has had absolutely nothing to hide, and in fact has hidden nothing.

Mr. Nunziata: The Minister knows that that is absolute nonsense. He knows that that tragedy could have been avoided and that the criminal justice system failed in a very miserable and tragic way in this particular case.

MEASURES TO PREVENT SIMILAR TRAGEDIES

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, what measures has the Solicitor General taken to ensure that this type of tragedy does not happen again?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, unlike the hon. gentleman I prefer to wait until the report comes out, and then assess the facts, assess the recommendations and address them as well as possible. I do not like to try to condemn people and come to judgments before I know what the report will contain.

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REFUGEES

CASE OF FRANCESCO PIPERNO SENTENCED BY ITALIAN COURT FOR TERRORIST CRIME

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. On June 2, 1986, I stated in the House my serious concern over the abuse of the refugee system by one Francesco Piperno, who was wanted in Italy in connection with the murder of Aldo Moro.

We know the Piperno case is now before the refugee appeal board, awaiting a decision, and therefore nothing further can be said on that subject. However, on Monday Mr. Piperno was sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison by the Italian authorities for helping to establish an armed terrorist group. Will the Minister tell the House what precautions the Government has taken to ensure that this individual poses no security threat to Canadians while he uses our refugee system?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)): Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct that the case is before the Immigration Appeal Board and it would be inappropriate to comment on such a matter. I understand the Member's concern and would ask him to await the decision of that quasi-judicial body.

Oral Questions

• (1500)

ABORTIONS

COMPILATION OF DATA BY STATISTICS CANADA

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services, who is also the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. As she knows, recently Statistics Canada changed the time space for the collection of data on abortion statistics to three years rather than an annual collection. This has seriously undermined the scientific research into the high incidence of adolescent pregnancies, a matter about which I am sure she is very concerned.

Will the Minister take immediate steps to revert to the original data base from hospital reports which was reliable, provided increasing detail and was published annually, so that we can get at this very serious problem?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, as I said in the House before, I am of course very concerned about the statistics on abortion. As soon as I became the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada, I asked for a review, to ensure that the statistics we shall be compiling are real statistics, which take into account private clinics in Quebec. In co-operation with the provinces, we have been able to set up a program which, I think, far better reflects the real situation regarding statistics on the abortion rate in Canada.

[English]

PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON ANNUAL BASIS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Through you, Mr. Speaker, does that mean that the Minister will make available this information on an annual basis which is absolutely essential? We want prevention; that is why it is so important.

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, being a federal agency, Statistics Canada also has to conform to budget restrictions, and after assessing the program, we agreed that we could make a comprehensive assessment of the program every three years, since the statistics fluctuated very little. In fact, the improvement we have made in the annual statistics has vastly improved the whole program, and I am very satisfied with what is being done today.