

Oral Questions

of the House timetable. I will discuss this with the House leader.

[Later:]

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a brief supplementary to the government House leader. Can he indicate what priority the government attaches at present to amending the Public Service Staff Relations Act and other related acts of the parliament of this country?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that point, while we attach importance to changes to be made in that piece of legislation, I would not think that we could expect to see any bill for some time yet, certainly not in January.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**WEST COAST LONGSHOREMEN—ACTION TO BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE WITH MANAGEMENT**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Labour. Can he assure the House and country that his department is making every effort to keep management and labour at the bargaining table in the B.C. dock workers labour dispute?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I would advise the hon. member that the parties had a ten-hour session on Friday. Much was accomplished. I think the parties intend to meet again to endeavour to resolve this dispute.

Mr. Horner (Crowfoot): Is management prepared to go back to the bargaining table after the session on Friday?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I have had no indication to the contrary yet.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES**INMATES' SUICIDES AND DRUG TRAFFIC—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Solicitor General.

Since several prisoners committed suicide lately in many penitentiaries and since a sixteen-year-old inmate of St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary hanged himself in his cell last Friday, will the hon. minister do something about that matter?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I was informed about this unfortunate incident last Friday and asked for a full report. It seems that the unfortunate young man was seen in his cell at 11.30 p.m. and was found dead half an hour later. I have asked for a full report and will provide details to the House as soon as possible.

[Mr. Drury.]

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Will the inquiry the minister intends to hold also touch upon the suspected drug traffic in federal penal institutions?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have asked for another report on the drug problem arising from another incident that took place at the Leclair Institute on the weekend. I hope to have a full report on that as well, but that is a separate inquiry.

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AIR TRANSPORT**INQUIRY AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHARTER FLIGHT REGULATIONS**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the House when the new regulations affecting new air charter flights will be officially announced by the Canadian Transport Commission?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly when it will be. I know it is under study and as soon as I have any information I will be happy to communicate it to the hon. member.

Mr. Mazankowski: As the regulations have not been officially released at this time, would the minister be prepared to investigate why some airlines and some air charter firms are advertising and indeed promoting new charter flight schedules based on the new rules?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will look into this.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY ON CONNECTING LINE IN SQUAMISH-LILLOOET AREA OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. Harry Olausson (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister inform the House whether Canadian National Railways has yet decided to commit itself to some agreement with the British Columbia Railway with regard to a possible connecting line in the Squamish-Lillooet area of British Columbia in order to provide an alternate route to Vancouver?

• (1440)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I do not think an agreement has yet been reached but I believe that many meetings have been held between the two railways and I am hopeful that within a very short while—it may be a matter of days—an agreement can be reached by them.