

There are statistics which show that there should be a surplus of 17 million pounds of turkeys for Christmas. There will be no shortage at all and there should be a substantial carry-over into the new year. Projected production for the first quarter of the new year is substantially increased, so as far as we are concerned there is no shortage of turkeys. There may be a shortage of marketing turkeys. There are over 50 million pounds of turkey in storage. There will be over 50 million pounds of fresh turkey before Christmas, so there should be a surplus of turkeys when imports are included. There should be a substantial surplus, at least half the surplus we had last year, so there should be no shortage of turkeys whatsoever. Also, turkeys should be at reasonable prices because producers have received an increase of only about 4½ cents a pound for the total year, so as far as we are concerned there should not be a further increase in price.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SENTENCE IMPOSED ON KEITH RICHARDS FOR POSSESSION OF DRUGS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the new Minister of Justice and also of other ministers involved in this matter, I will ask the Solicitor General whether there is any communication between the Department of Justice, the Department of the Solicitor General and the Department of Employment and Immigration. When the two former departments I have mentioned have complete information concerning criminal records of individuals who come into Canada, I want to know what communication there is. I am referring to the matter of Mr. Keith Richards who has a record as long as your arm and who was admitted here. I want to find out what communication there is among departments.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, in view of the vague nature of the question which the right hon. gentleman has asked regarding a very specific instance, I will take notice of the question and report subsequently.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the minister is anxious to get information. I will give him the record of Keith Richards. He was convicted in 1973, in the United Kingdom, for offences relating to dope, arms and ammunition. One of the charges was possession of Chinese heroin. In 1973, in France, there were convictions for using, supplying and trafficking in hashish and heroin. There was a fine of 5,000 pounds. The minister wants information, and I always provide it. In 1977, one week before Mr. Richards came to Canada, he was convicted in the United Kingdom for having dope. What communication is there, and why are individuals like this allowed into Canada?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman is free to provide information, and I take note of it. It is unfortunate

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that the right hon. gentleman did not make that information available to me previously.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blais: In a situation such as this one, I find it odd that the right hon. gentleman did not give some indication prior to the question period in order to give me notice so that I could ascertain the information he has solicited. It is odd, in view of the sensitive nature of the information he has advanced.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT CONCERNING LETTING OF CONTRACTS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question about the Auditor General's report. As the Prime Minister will be aware, the Auditor General states in his report that throughout the government, contracts of great value are given out without calling for competitive tenders. For example, the Auditor General points out that the Department of Supply and Services alone signed about 90,000 contracts, totalling over \$1,800 million, without calling for competitive tenders.

Would the Prime Minister tell the House how he justifies this action by his government, particularly in view of the fact that such action appears to fly in the face of the government's own regulations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this question was asked in detail of the minister of supply and services at the time concerning the different contracts, and in each case he gave an explanation. The general explanation is that it allows the minister, as he is so authorized under the law, to use his discretion to help certain parts of the country where we want to assist in regional development.

This answer was given in the House by the minister at the time. If the hon. member has any other questions on any particular case, I am sure we will be very anxious to give answers.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General is fully aware of answers which have been given previously by the Department of Supply and Services. However, the Auditor General thought the matter was of sufficient importance to include it in his annual report. His officials stated yesterday, before the public accounts committee, that they were dissatisfied with the procedures followed by the government and that they found the explanations given totally inadequate.

I ask the Prime Minister about another government activity covered by the Auditor General. As reported, he states that the government often signed open-ended contracts based on fixed-time rates and cost-plus pricing methods which actually give incentives for time-wasting on construction being carried out