

Oral Questions

PENITENTIARIES

DECISION ON NEW TRIAL FOR YVES GEOFFROY—
REASONS FOR TEMPORARY RELEASE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Has any decision been made by the government with respect to the new trial asked for by Mr. Yves Geoffroy?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, that is a question for the Minister of Justice who is absent today, but to my knowledge no decision has been made.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister, who is in charge of penitentiaries, how it is that a photograph of this vile murderer, Yves Geoffroy, who killed his wife and whose appeals have been denied right to the Supreme Court of Canada, appears in an article in the *Montreal Star*, along with the woman for whom he committed the murder, sartorially perfect with hair cut and mustache trimmed in a manner that would do honour to anyone in that profession? How does this man happen to be out of prison? When prisoners are taken from penitentiaries, are they allowed to dress themselves up in perfect civilian attire? Why was the preliminary hearing not held in the prison in so far as the evidence was concerned, having regard to the fact that this man disappeared for three months at the time he was given freedom to get married?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I will look into that. I do not know whether that picture is one that was taken when he was out recently, but I will be pleased to look into the matter and report to the House.

An hon. Member: He had that picture taken in Spain.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, was the minister not asked to give permission for this man to get out to go to Joliette along with this woman to whom he is now married? With murderers disappearing from penitentiaries today, surely this pampered pet should not be placed in the favoured position in which he is.

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HEALTH

ACTION TO PREVENT USE OF CHEMICAL FENITROTHON
FOR SPRAYING

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the near disaster at Port Alice, British Columbia, this week, which was only prevented by the action of a local doctor who advised that the chemical fenitrothon, which was to be sprayed on trees in the area, contained enough nerve gas to kill 200,000 people, will the minister assure the House that he will review the regulations and legislation which allowed this situation to occur in order that recurrences will be prevented?

[Mr. Sharp.]

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to investigate the incident mentioned by the hon. member and ask my officials to make a report on the present situation. I can assure the hon. member that if supplementary action is needed, we will not hesitate to take it.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who was here in the House but has now departed. Perhaps I should wait until later in the question period to see if he returns. If he does not I will put the question to the Acting Prime Minister.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT NOT SEEK RETURN OF
OVERPAYMENTS TO FARMERS UNDER WHEAT INVENTORY
REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the fact that the Auditor General's report points out that the government has written off \$6 million in taxes owed by a large United States automobile company and at the same time is trying to collect \$228,000 in overpayments under the Lift program, which were mainly the result of government mistakes, can the minister indicate whether the government is giving consideration to forgiving these overpayments to farmers?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member's facts are a little twisted.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Your answer certainly is.

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, I will study the implications of the hon. member's question and try to give him an answer, but he is certainly not interpreting the Auditor General's report as I read it.

Mr. Fairweather: You are twisting it.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, in view of the indication in two reports of the Auditor General that the government has in fact spent a considerable amount of money attempting to collect overpayment under Lift, while at the same time we see no evidence in the reports of any attempt to collect the \$6 million owed by a large U.S. automobile company, will the minister give serious consideration to writing off the \$228,000, which I suggest would be cheaper than trying to collect it?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, in respect of the question of recovering overpayments under Lift, I do not think this would be a matter for the Department of National Reve-