

the intention of the government to present immediately to these groups at least a preliminary policy of its own as to what level of restraint should be expected from each, or does the Prime Minister merely wish to play the role of host?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO MINISTER HAS TRANSFERRED ASSETS TO SPOUSE

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. Since the Prime Minister's guidelines for conflicts of interest relating to ministers of the Crown do not include spouses and since the right hon. gentleman, in answer to a question by the hon. member for Rocky Mountain, said that he had discovered potential conflicts of interest during the period he had given ministers to put their affairs in order, can he assure the House that under present guidelines no minister of the Crown has transferred assets to a spouse in order to avoid conflict of interest.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wanted to hear the full import of the question before intervening. The hon. member well knows that the subject of conflict of interest guidelines, and the green paper have been referred to the standing committee. Also, specific guidelines respecting conflict of interest involving ministers and senior civil servants are to be the subject matter of debate today and I feel that these questions should be dealt with then rather than at this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wish the minions on the backbenches would remain silent. It was precisely because there is to be that debate this afternoon and this evening that I asked my question, since the Prime Minister's answer would have a bearing on my remarks either this afternoon or this evening. The Prime Minister may not necessarily be present in the House during the debate, nor will he necessarily reply to speeches made later today. That is why I asked this specific question. I am sure he would like to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Be that as it may, I feel that whoever participates in this important debate on behalf of the government will be able to address himself, as the lead-off speaker, to the very important question asked by the hon. member. I think that will be the appropriate time to do it.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think the answer to the hon. member's question would put the debate in its proper perspective.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the hon. member for Labelle wants to shout and yell all the

Oral Questions

time. I do not think he was sent to this House to do that. I am trying to make a sensible, responsible suggestion. The answer to the hon. member's question would put this afternoon's debate on the rails.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta.

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I listen religiously to the questions of hon. members of the opposition, but I think that if the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi had referred himself to today's order paper, he could have waited to put his question during the debate now about to take place.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta.

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PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—ESCAPE OF TWO INMATES—SUGGESTED MANNING OF TOWERS TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and has to do with the escape from the British Columbia penitentiary last week of two dangerous criminals. Can the Solicitor General advise the House if the four towers in the British Columbia penitentiary will be manned 24 hours a day, as they were last year when there was such a rash of escapes, so that the people of British Columbia may be protected against escaping convicts?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the only time the towers are not manned is—

An hon. Member: For coffee break.

Mr. Allmand: —from midnight until eight o'clock in the morning.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to say that the only time the towers are not manned in the B.C. pen is after midnight, when inmates are locked in their cells. In this particular escape inmates had put dummies in their cells, and had hidden—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: The dummies are on the government side.

Mr. Hees: Is that why you are so slim today?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to give the House full information on this question. Before lock-up these inmates had put dummies in their beds and had hidden outside. After the lock-up, with the guards absent from the towers, they escaped.

Mr. Hees: The dummies stayed in and the prisoners walked out.