

Oral Questions

knows perfectly well that the Quebec government has always wanted to be master of its own regional development, I ask the minister, who is so proud of the fact that he voted yes in the May 1980 referendum, I ask him to tell us why he now wants to impose on Quebec a structure that symbolizes federal arrogance and interference?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, last year, when I became responsible for the Department of Industry, Science and Technology, the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean was a member of this government, and at the time, I was also given responsibility for regional development. So it is rather surprising that today, he is rending his garments and would have us believe—since I am maintaining the same responsibility, I would ask—I trust the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean agrees the minister responsible for Quebec has the right to intervene to help Quebec with its regional development, Mr. Speaker.

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• (1450)

[English]

PASSES FOR CONVICTED PERSONS

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General regarding passes for convicted rapists. Larry Takahashi was charged in 1984 with sexually assaulting 138 women across Canada, most of them in the Edmonton area. He was convicted of 16 of those charges and was sentenced to three life sentences.

Will the minister tell the House why he is now being allowed out on a “supervised recreational pass” in Agassiz, B.C. Will he tell us whether he will revoke this pass, especially given the fact that the Parole Board has repeatedly denied all forms of parole.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am obviously not aware of the case of which my hon. friend speaks. I will undertake to look into the matter and get back to him.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): This is not the first case. We have had Daniel Gingras in Alberta as well, and two people are dead because of it.

Will the minister not only review the case, but review his policy which allows abominations like this to occur? Is he aware of the fact that women and men are concerned about violence in this country and about the fact that victims do not get deals, but convicted offenders do?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I met with the corrections officers from all across Canada last evening. I think it is fair to say that this is a group that is trying to rehabilitate people. For the most part their successes are never brought up on the floor of the House of Commons. But, yes, there are some things that escape through the net and those are brought up.

I stand behind a policy of trying to rehabilitate people. I know that there are instances where, when they are brought up in this manner, they look like they are out of whack. But basically, what we are trying to do is put people back in society and that is what the policy is designed to do.

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EDMONTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and concerns the transfer of the Edmonton International Airport to the local authority.

The original memorandum of agreement, which was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister in 1989, was a lease to purchase agreement. Today the document is merely a lease agreement.

My question is this: Given that the local authority plans to spend tens of millions of dollars over the terms of the lease to improve the infrastructure of the airport, will the minister restore the purchase clause in the agreement?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I would like to mention to him that with regard to the leases that are contemplated between the Minister of Transport and the Government of Canada and the airport authorities in the various places where we are discussing the possibility of developing the operation of the airports, these leases are going to be for a very long term period. The local airport authorities that will be investing in the improvements of the airport will have plenty of time to fully amortize their