

annual increase in corporation profits of 53 per cent, which I believe is the highest in 12 years at a quarterly rate, is consideration now being given to withdrawing the corporate tax bill as well as the provision for fast write-offs?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will realize that the Minister of Finance, on behalf of the government, has presented this bill as a medium and long-term measure. It is not meant to reflect the unusually high increase this year or the very low increase a couple of years ago.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact profits have been high for the past couple of years, can the Prime Minister advise us how high these profits will have to go before he will withdraw the bill to reduce corporate taxes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

[Translation]

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

In view of the large number of students who will be jobless this summer and the hundreds of Opportunities for Youth projects that have been turned down for lack of funds, can the minister tell us whether or not he has made representations to the Treasury Board with a view to obtaining additional funds that he might accept more projects? If so, does he expect a favourable reply?

[English]

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker. I have not made that representation nor do I plan to at this point in time.

* * *

PENITENTIARIES

LOSSES SUFFERED BY PEOPLE THROUGH OFFENCES BY INMATES ABSENT WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION—POSSIBLE ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Paliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. It relates to the increasing problems being created for Canadians all across the country by unauthorized absences of people from institutions under the minister's control. Is the government anticipating another look at the situation to protect citizens against losses as a result of dealing with these people? I refer to two people who left the Agassiz institution in April, one of whom was being detained for offences relating to fraud. He is now travelling round the country with his partner passing out phony certified cheques, the latest incident being in Calgary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, on June 1 I announced a program to restrict temporary absences. In addition, we have taken measures to upgrade the perimeter security at most of our penitentiaries. We hope this will stop some of the unauthorized absences.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. The hon. member might ask his supplementary quickly and I will then recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

Mr. Schumacher: These people did not escape. They were let out to go to a dance. The purport of my question is to ascertain whether the government will assume any of the responsibility for this lack of administrative procedures on behalf of those people who suffer losses as a result of these people being at large?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, we are looking at that possibility. In addition, the sort of situation referred to by the hon. member has been tightened up. These people were on temporary absences. Temporary absences are being screened much more thoroughly than in the past.

* * *

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—DANGER TO CANADIAN ELEMENT IN CONTROL COMMISSION—GOVERNMENT DECISION RESPECTING WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of reports on the increasing danger to which the Canadian contingent in Viet Nam is exposed, has the minister received a full report on the situation? If so, can he also tell the House whether plans have been made to pull out of Viet Nam earlier than had been expected?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have received a fairly complete report on recent developments in Viet Nam. As the hon. member and the House know from the newspapers, the men in our contingent were restricted to barracks at the end of last week because of the increased violence and increased shooting. They are no longer under the same restrictions. There has been a very sharp decline in the level of violence. We are watching the situation very carefully. I do not expect it will be necessary, and I hope it will not, to withdraw our contingent earlier than I had planned because that would mean there had been a resumption of large-scale warfare in breach of the peace agreement.