

PENITENTIARIES

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT ESCAPES—SUGGESTED RECONSIDERATION OF POLICY OF CONCENTRATING INSTITUTIONS IN ONE AREA

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the reported increase in the number of escapes from penal institutions in my riding, including three from Agassiz prison on November 3, two from Matsqui Institution on November 8, one from Agassiz prison on November 21 where a dangerous sex offender escaped in a late model truck carrying the insignia of the Solicitor General and three from Matsqui on November 22 involving one convicted rapist and murderer, one habitual and dangerous criminal, and one habitual criminal, what steps is the Solicitor General taking to deal with these inexcusable situations and to provide security for the communities?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Well, Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear about these escapes and I will check into them immediately. All I can tell the hon. member is that in the last two years we have considerably increased our security in the penitentiaries by putting in double fences, new outlook posts and so on, with the result that over the last year and a half our escapes from the penitentiaries have decreased by about 50 per cent. Whether there is a particular problem in the Fraser Valley, I will check that out, but I am very surprised to hear this information.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, in view of the lack of security and resultant danger to citizens, will the minister reconsider his policy of concentrating these institutions within a relatively small geographic area?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, that is our policy now. One of the difficulties is getting consent or agreement from other municipalities in British Columbia to accept some of our institutions. We would gladly spread them around the province.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTION THAT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES BE REVIEWED

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the recommendations contained in the 1966 report of the Advisory Commission on the Development of Government in the Northwest Territories, commonly known as the Carrothers report, to the effect that there should be a decennial review of the political, economic and social development in the Northwest Territories, can the Prime Minister advise whether or not he is planning such a review in the immediate future?

● (1500)

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister just caught my eye. I missed the first part of the question.

Order Paper Questions

Mr. Neil: Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I am referring to the recommendations contained in the Carrothers report regarding a decennial review of the government in the Northwest Territories. Is the minister considering a review at this time?

Mr. Buchanan: We have been looking at that report and giving some consideration as to whether we should be establishing a similar commission or exactly how we should approach the matter. As you know, the report suggested a decennial review and re-examination of the division of the territories at the time of that review.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

TABLING OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PANARCTIC AIR CRASH INQUIRY

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table copies of the terms of reference of the Panarctic air crash inquiry dated November 25, 1975, as well as the name of the commissioner of the inquiry.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 3,173, 3,178 and 3,302.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

POLLUTION ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Question No. 3,173—**Mr. Marshall:**

1. Did the Minister of the Environment offer to enter into contracts with all Canadian paper companies regarding pollution abatement technology cost sharing arrangements so that all paper companies can install facilities to permit recycling of process effluents similar to its contract of \$1,158,000 with the Great Lakes Paper Company Ltd. of Thunder Bay and, if so, were offers made to Bowater's Nfld. Ltd., Price Bros. Ltd., and Labrador Linerboard Ltd.?

2. If offers were not made to these companies can they qualify and, if so, what are the terms of reference?

Mr. George Baker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): 1. No. The DPAT Program covers development of new technology and the demonstration of that technology to show that it can work under Canadian industrial conditions. The new technology, once demonstrated, precludes entering into contracts with other Canadian companies by the Department of the Environment (the new technology will be freely available to other Canadian companies). Contracts with respect to the Program are awarded as a result of industry initiating action through the submission of a proposal.