

Inquiries of the Ministry

for the Solicitor General, but as the House is about to recess for ten days or so, I should like to know—as a fifth suicide has recently happened at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary and due also to charges of negligence laid against the authorities of that penitentiary—if he has ordered a complete investigation on the causes of this disastrous situation.

[English]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, an inquiry is going on into this particular incident. I should add that I am very concerned about the large number of these cases and I am giving attention to trying to find out what form of investigation we should have to discover more than we now know about the underlying causes for the number of suicides in that institution.

FISHERIES

WEST COAST COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING
—REQUEST FOR SUSPENSION OF
REGULATIONS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry arising out of the fact that the House is about to recess and that the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry will not have completed its consideration of the salmon licencing provisions proposed by the minister prior to the time when commercial fishermen will be applying for renewal of licences in British Columbia. In view of this, will the minister agree to suspend the application of his phase two proposals until the standing committee has completed its consideration? Alternatively, if he will not agree to a general suspension will he agree at least to suspend the application of these provisions so far as Indian fishermen in British Columbia are concerned?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): It would be impossible to accede to this request, Mr. Speaker. A number of the fishermen have already paid their fees for this year.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I address a related question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in view of the reply received from the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Will the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development say whether he agrees that all Indian fishermen, if they are not otherwise able to do so, should be assisted in paying the \$100 salmon licencing fee, in order that they may not be

[Mr. La Salle.]

squeezed out of their traditional method of earning a livelihood because of the action of his colleague the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry?

[Translation]

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the hon.—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I gather the hon. member for Comox-Alberni is waiting for a reply to the question he asked a moment ago.

Mr. Barnett: No, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that apparently I am not to get an answer from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I would like to address a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister see that the two ministers to whom I have addressed my questions get together and work out an arrangement which will protect the Indian fishermen of B.C. from being deprived of their basic livelihood?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I shall simply answer by saying that I shall look into this matter and that I intend to discuss it with the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry in order to reach a solution.

NATIONAL PARKS

FORILLON—TRANSFER OF LANDS FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF PARK

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

As more than six million Quebecers are awaiting the development of a national park in Quebec and in view of a statement by the Hon. Marcel Masse in Rimouski two weeks ago, could the minister tell the House whether the province of Quebec has made available land for the development of the national park at Forillon and when work will start on the project?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have not yet received official confirmation of this land transfer from the Minister of External Affairs or rather of Intergovernmental Affairs of Quebec. As I said before, we will start work when the land is transferred to us.