

Mr. Jelinek: When?

Mr. Smith: The delay has not been on our part.

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PENITENTIARIES

RELEASE OF CONVICTED MURDER-RAPIST ON DAY LEAVE

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It is with respect to Wayne Boden who recently escaped while on day leave. He was free for 36 hours, then was apprehended and again placed in jail. Boden raped, and then murdered four women by strangulation. Less than a year ago a psychiatric assessment said that he could murder again.

My question deals with a letter sent to me in 1976 from the former Solicitor General, the Hon. Member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, wherein he stated that because of the viciousness of Boden's crimes he would not be released without Cabinet approval. In view of that commitment, and the psychiatric assessment, why was Boden out on day leave?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have answered the question in general. However, I was unaware of the letter. I will take the Member's question as notice and look into it.

FORMER MINISTER'S LETTER

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is going to look into it, I will ask him to look into this as well. Can he advise me if the letter, or the thrust of the letter, sent to me by the former Solicitor General, together with the psychiatric report, is in Boden's file at the prison? If so, what authority at the prison level could have overridden the requirement for Cabinet approval?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, again I will take notice of the supplementary question and report back to the Hon. Member as soon as I can.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OIL DRILLING IN LANCASTER SOUND—GOVERNMENT POLICY INQUIRY

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Is it, or is it not, the policy of the Government of Canada to allow for oil and gas drilling in Lancaster Sound?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I believe that this question should be addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources—

Mr. Dick: Where is he?

Oral Questions

Mr. Caccia: —as to what the policy is for drilling in Lancaster Sound. He is the Minister responsible, and it seems to me the question should be addressed to him, or to the Minister who answers for him today in the House.

MINISTER'S ADVICE

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, what advice has the Minister of the Environment given to the Minister who will make the effective decision? I believe it is not the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but rather the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. What advice has the Minister of the Environment given to this Minister?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would refer the Hon. Member to clippings in the press which have appeared in the past two weeks. I am sure he is very aware of them, otherwise he would not be asking this question. I did write to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development indicating that Lancaster Sound, because of its biological richness, is one which ought to be left aside in terms of oil drilling. That letter has been made available or leaked to the press.

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ENERGY

TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT—POSSIBLE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the problems in the Middle East and the Gulf States, and the fact that Japan gets most of its oil from that region, I wonder whether the Government had made any arrangements, or thought of making any arrangements, with Japan, to develop tar sands' potential in western Canada on the basis that the Japanese would be given, on financing such plants, access to oil recovered in payment of its advances? The Minister will realize that that will go a long way toward solving a great deal of unemployment which exists in this country.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my hon. friend that Canada was self-sufficient in oil last year. As a matter of fact, we were net exporters of oil to the United States. We were aiming for self-sufficiency by 1980, and we achieved it in 1983. I believe the energy policies of this Government were quite effective in reaching that goal. I hope my friend will applaud such a development.

As far as the arrangements concerning the development of the tar sands are concerned, again I remind my friend that a number of steps were taken regarding the development of the tar sands last year. As far as enhanced oil recovery is concerned, projects have taken place at Cold Lake and Wolf Lake, to mention only two, and there are discussions going on