

House how PSR 230, which I presume is Prison Service Regulation 230, has resulted in disciplinary action in the case of 30 prisoners as a result of the riot and to which the minister has alluded?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have never avoided answering the question. What I said is reported on page 6039 of *Hansard* and I quote:

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that, immediately after the disturbances in Kingston, there was not enough room for some inmates and we had to make use of all other premises available. The choice was not ours, but that of the inmates. Up till now, no disciplinary action has been taken against the inmates and, recently, considering that further disturbances were expected—

And then I was unable to go on with my remarks.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that we are entering into a debate over what was said and what was not said.

Mr. Woolliams: He should resign.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not the time or occasion for such debate. The hon. member for Témiscamingue, I shall return to the hon. member for Skeena in a moment.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC RESPECTING PURCHASE OF CL-215 AIRCRAFT FROM CANADAIR

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Due to the rather difficult conditions prevailing at Canadair Limited in Montreal which has dismissed 5,000 workers, has the government or the department been approached by the Quebec authorities concerning the purchase of CL-215 aircraft to help control forest fires, since the building of ten aircraft or an order therefor would enable Canadair to hire 1,500 men for a year and a half? Has the minister been approached by the provincial government in this connection?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the situation is somewhat different. The Quebec government has already bought 15 such aircraft and apparently has more than needed. Quebec has been asked not to put its surplus CL-215 aircraft on the market at the present time in order not to endanger the production opportunities of the company.

However Canadair did ask the federal government to finance the production of additional aircraft and the request is under study.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena had a supplementary to the previous question.

Inquiries of the Ministry

PENITENTIARIES

RIGHT OF INMATES TO COMMUNICATE WITH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Solicitor General. With respect to the statements which the minister and Commissioner Faguy made before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee to the effect that inmates would have the right to communicate directly with the commissioner, with Members of Parliament, and with the minister of course, on a confidential basis, can the minister say whether any change has been made in that situation? Do all inmates still have that right?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I think the Commissioner's statement dealt with written communications between an inmate and his member of Parliament or vice versa. We have changed the policy so that from now on, inmates may send their members of Parliament sealed letters which will not be submitted to the control of penitentiary authorities.

Besides, the measure was taken to answer a request by several members of Parliament. On the other hand, there has been no change to the practice of letting hon. members visit penitentiaries and talk with inmates. There is only one reservation; because of exceptional circumstances, visits to Ontario penitentiaries will not be allowed for the reasons I have already outlined, until the situation is back to normal.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Would the Solicitor General mind checking into an allegation that on Friday, May 21, certain inmates at Collins Bay penitentiary were advised that they could engage in this sort of confidential communication which the minister has committed himself to accept and on Tuesday of this week, May 25, letters that had been written were returned to them by the administration, having been opened, and the prisoners were told that the policy had been changed?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I will surely investigate the matter. It may well be that the instructions have not yet been received by penitentiary wardens and that the Commissioner has not had the opportunity to give instructions. However, I will certainly see to it that the situation is corrected.

[English]

SUGGESTED APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN TO INVESTIGATE PRISONERS' COMPLAINTS

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. In view of the recent riots in Kingston penitentiary and in Millhaven and in view of the unrest and unsettled state of affairs in other penitentiaries and penal institutions across Canada, would the minister consider appointing an ombudsman who would articulate the pris-