

taken on that report? When will the government respond to that report on penitentiaries? Who is assessing the report? One of the major recommendations of the report concerns the bureaucracy and structures which must be changed within the penitentiary system. Is any bureaucrat whom the report criticized involved in assessing the report which criticized him?

Mr. Art Lee (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all hon. members will join with me in congratulating the Solicitor General for implementing one of the committee's recommendations yesterday by way of an amendment to Bill C-51. I refer to the concept of the independent chairman of disciplinary hearings. The minister is actively considering the matter and in due course the minister will inform the hon. member of his position.

REASON FOR FAILURE TO RESPOND TO RECOMMENDATION
COMMITTEE MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. That one recommendation, incorporated in Bill C-51, was one of the most minor in the report. The recommendation that an all-party committee have a continuing mandate to monitor the implementation of the report so that we can determine how fast it is being implemented is easy to comply with. Can the parliamentary secretary say why we have not had a response even to that simple recommendation which said that the justice subcommittee should have a continuing mandate to monitor the implementation of the report? Why are we refused that request?

Mr. Art Lee (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, that is a subject matter for the House to deal with. The minister cannot presume what the House of Commons intends to do.

POSSIBILITY COMMISSIONER ASSESSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. One of the committee's major and important recommendations concerned the role of the commissioner and the role of a board to manage the prison system. Is the commissioner, who was involved so intimately in this matter and whom the report criticized, assessing the report of the all-party committee? The parliamentary secretary did not answer my initial question. Are the members of the bureaucracy whom the report criticizes assessing the report which criticizes them? Is that the kind of response the Solicitor General will give us?

Mr. Art Lee (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered that question. I said the Solicitor General takes the report most seriously. The hon. member suggests that the introduction of the provision concerning the independent chairman of disciplinary hearings is a paltry one, but I should like him to ask those individuals facing disciplinary hearings in their penal institutions what they think of it. I think that will show you the serious way in which the

Oral Questions

Solicitor General approaches this whole matter. In due course he will make known his intentions to the hon. member and others in this House.

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ENERGY

NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR
DETAILS OF SWAP ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arises from what he told the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands yesterday about gas contracts with the United States. I should like the matter to be made clear. I understand we have made a deal with the United States whereby we shall export so many thousand cubic feet of natural gas and get, in return, so many thousand cubic feet of natural gas. Are we to deal in dollars and cents, or in cubic feet of natural gas. If we export natural gas to the United States, because gas prices to consumers are rising will we receive in return an equivalent number of cubic feet of natural gas instead of dollars and cents?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands asked a hypothetical question.

Miss MacDonald: The minister treats all questions, apparently, as hypothetical.

Mr. Gillespie: He wondered what would be the government's approach to a particular situation which might develop. I tried to say as best I could that there is a possibility of swaps over time, which I think is the basis of the hon. member's question. The National Energy Board, in its report to the government tabled some ten days ago, raised this possibility. The details of any time swaps have not been worked out, but I think the principle of a time swap should be examined.

● (1140)

I recognize with the hon. member that we would want to protect the Canadian interests, as did the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, so that we would not be in the position of selling at today's prices, relatively cheap, a certain quantity of natural gas and then buying it back at a later date at a very much higher price. Obviously, that would not make any sense.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the minister in this regard. Is he saying to me, and I do not know whether the House appreciates this, that the deal is going to be on cubic feet of gas if Canada gives gas today and gets gas back from the United States? Will it be in cubic feet or in dollars and cents? That is what the consumer wants to know. Let us cut out the rhetoric.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, this has to be answered on the basis of a hypothetical question because we have not received