

Order Paper Questions

4. For the same period, did Canada import agricultural products and, if so (a) what were they (b) in what quantity in each case?

Return tabled.

[English]

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

Mr. Cossitt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The answer to question No. 3121, until the parliamentary secretary mentioned that he was prepared to table it, had not been given, and I was about to ask why that was so simply because he had given us a guarantee shortly before the Christmas recess that all questions on the order paper prior to that date would be answered before the House adjourned, which is likely to be tomorrow or the next day. Now he has answered the question, but the answer has been tabled rather than included in *Hansard*.

In view of the fact that the question was whether a jet was purchased from the T. Eaton Company by the government, in view of the fact that this question was not answered when question No. 344 was answered, and in view of the fact that the question asks how many times the Prime Minister, his family and the cabinet ministers used this jet both after its purchase and before it was purchased from the T. Eaton Company, I feel that it is unacceptable for the answer to this question to be tabled. Whether it is an honest answer or the usual government cover-up answer, this answer should be not tabled, but inserted in *Hansard*.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I should like to bring to the attention of the parliamentary secretary two questions which I have on the order paper. The first is question No. 3565 which I filed on the order paper last November 14 and has been on the order paper for the longest period of time. I am wondering whether the parliamentary secretary might be able either to expedite the answering of this question or give some reason as to the delay. I am a bit concerned that the government may not feel it is a very serious question because it asks whether it has given consideration to requiring that government documents be put into readable and understandable language so that the average citizen may understand them. I assure the parliamentary secretary that that is not a flippant question; I was very serious.

● (1530)

Another question I thought I might bring to his attention was placed on the order paper on May 28, with respect to the government's 1976 census. In view of the fact that we are about to adjourn for the summer recess, the current aspect of the question would be lost if it were allowed to be held over until the fall, and I wonder whether the parliamentary secretary will do whatever he can to expedite the answering of that question.

Mr. Blais: With a great deal of pleasure.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURES RESPECTING PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Allmand that Bill C-84, to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be read the third time and do pass, and the motion thereto of Mr. Condon.

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, we have now reached a point where we have one more vote in so far as determining whether Bill C-84 will become law. If it becomes law, the abolition of capital punishment will become a reality in this nation. One would have to assume, having examined the votes which took place both on second reading and during the report stage, that we have reached a point where it is likely that capital punishment will be abolished in Canada for all crimes, including high treason and skyjacking, as well as for the murder of police officers and prison employees.

I do not intend to take a great deal of time today, but I want to point out some facts which give me a great deal of concern both with regard to the coming events in Montreal in so far as terrorists and their activities are concerned and with regard to the situations which will develop both in law enforcement in the nation and in the work of employees in penitentiaries. We have to appreciate that the elimination of high treason as a capital offence could be an open invitation to many terrorists in the world and will take away some of the protection which might have been available to Olympic athletes who could face terrorist activity as was the case at the last Olympic Games in Munich.

This is a rather appropriate day upon which to discuss this matter because it is the anniversary of the murder of the Israeli athletes who were in Munich strictly as athletes participating and endeavouring to show the excellence of their sports ability and who died because they happened to come from a country which certain terrorists believed should see the degree of disrespect they felt for that country, for human life, for humanity in general and certainly for any aspect of international law. So it is an appropriate day for a member of parliament to consider the situation once again and to make a decision on whether capital punishment should continue for certain individuals.

In so far as law enforcement in this country is concerned, I am very fearful that as a result of the action of this parliament, which is certainly contrary to the view of almost every law enforcement officer in this nation, there will be a change in attitude on the part of law enforcement officers. If parliament will not react to the wishes of the great majority of the people of this nation and impose capital punishment on those who carry out the murder of police officers and penitentiary employees, I am fearful that in too many instances in the days ahead we will see police officers taking the law into their own hands and shooting first and asking questions later, rather than believing that the courts of the land will deal properly with individuals who embark upon the kind of crimes