

advice to the Solicitor General in this case, and I can say that it is our advice that it is our responsibility, as a Government, to try to keep these prisoners alive as long as possible. However, that depends on the ethics of the medical profession. That is one of the factors which the Solicitor General must take into account. The Hon. Member may want to raise this matter with him in dealing with this problem. Therefore, it is not something that can be resolved by law alone. It is something that must be resolved by law in keeping with the ethics of the medical profession.

Mr. Lawrence: I will then direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General. The Minister of Justice said that one of the major factors could be the question of the law, and I thought I was addressing my question to the chief law officer of the Crown.

FUTURE TREATMENT OF INMATES

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Madam Speaker, because I gather the one medical practitioner who did act on the one occasion will not do so again, has the Solicitor General been able to find any other medical practitioner who is willing to treat these other seriously ill inmates, against their wishes? What guarantees has he been able to give to any such doctor who is willing to come forward to provide life-saving services?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I am not certain if the Hon. Member is speaking of cases other than the one involving the Dukhobor inmates in British Columbia who have engaged in a fast. The advice I have received from the Department of Justice, from my colleague, the Minister, is that it is our responsibility to try to keep them alive. The Hon. Member is right. We have been having difficulties finding doctors who are prepared to do this, although the law, according to my colleague, is very clear. Therefore we have appealed to the Canadian Medical Association to assist us in locating doctors who are prepared to help us keep people alive, those who are fasting within the correctional service of Canada. So far as I know there are medical practitioners who are now available in British Columbia and who are prepared to assist us in keeping inmates alive. That is very much my own preference.

As we are custodians of these individuals during a relatively short period of their lives, that duty is one that I have accepted gladly. I have made every effort through the correctional service and on my own to locate medical practitioners willing to do this.

Mr. Lawrence: What guarantee is there?

Oral Questions

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

GRANT MADE TO VANCOUVER UNEMPLOYMENT ACTION CENTRES

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower. He will know that about ten days ago the Minister of State for Social Development in the other place gave a cheque of some \$600,000 to the Unemployment Action Centres in the Vancouver region which, as far as I know, have listed no telephone numbers or addresses, which would then mean that those who need it the most, the hard-core unemployed, would find no relief at all, which the \$600,000 was supposed to provide to them. What demands were made on the people receiving the grant in order to make certain that those who need the help the most will receive it?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, while the Hon. Member addresses his question to the Minister of Manpower. I take it that he means the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I take it, also, that he is making an allegation that the information which is necessary for people to fully use the services for which the grant was given has not been made available. I have only his representation to that effect. I will check to verify if that is indeed the case and, if so, will correct it.

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● (1450)

LABOUR RELATIONS

AUSTIN AIRLINES STRIKE AT TIMMINS, ONT.

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Since August 22, some 16,800 person-hours of employment have been lost by 105 striking employees of Austin Airlines of Timmins, Ontario. They and their union, the Canadian Airline Employees' Association, have been forced on strike to retain their basic union security clause because the Minister of Labour failed for two months to answer the union's legitimate request for the ministerial consent required to proceed with charges of bargaining in bad faith against their employer under the provisions of the Canada Labour Code.

Why did the Minister wait so long, for two entire months, until last Thursday, to give his consent to proceed with these charges, thus causing the strike, and only then after the union threatened to demonstrate as they did today on Parliament Hill?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that I acted as quickly as possible, as soon as I was told about this case. I can also inform the Hon. Member that hearings are to be held during the first week of October, and I hope these will be satisfactory,