

Oral Questions

steps, if any, it took to provide them with extra protection while Wayne Boden was loose?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to look into the circumstances of the matter so that I could give the Hon. Member a fuller report. Of course Mr. Boden was released on an escorted temporary absence and it was the intention that he be under surveillance for the entire time that he was out of the prison. As Hon. Members know, unfortunately he escaped from custody and was at large in the Montreal area for a period of 36 hours. However, I will look into the circumstances to see if I can provide the Hon. Member with more details.

In the mean time I know that the Hon. Member will be interested to know, and to tell the concerned citizens of Calgary, that at twelve o'clock today I will be presenting a change in policy to the Correctional Service and to the National Parole Board, to provide greater control in circumstances where escorted temporary absences are granted, or may be granted, to offenders like Mr. Boden.

Mr. Speaker: Could the Hon. Member make his a short supplementary question? There are several other Hon. Members whom I am trying to recognize.

TEMPORARY ABSENCES—POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister make that statement in the House in a statement on Motions? Will the Minister give us some indication of what the Departmental policy is? Witnesses are frequently threatened, and prisoners do escape. When prisoners escape, what is departmental policy on warning those witnesses, and what is the departmental policy on providing them with some protection?

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, in the event of escapes it is the policy of the Correctional Service of Canada to warn police departments in areas to which there is reason to believe that the fugitives may go. It is then left to the police departments in those areas to take appropriate steps like those described by the Hon. Member.

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INDUSTRY

LOSS OF UNITED STATES MILITARY ORDER TO PORT COLBORNE PLANT

Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for External Relations. The Minister will know that a directive has been issued by the American Government which states that, as of May 24, no defence contracts for forgings are to be let to Canadian companies. This ruling affects at least six companies in Canada, including Port Colborne Forgings which is in my riding, and could cause the loss of at least 25 jobs there. I wonder what the Minister has done about that matter.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, the question of the participation of Canadian firms is one that has been brought to the attention of the Government, and representations have been made to the Americans on the subject. It was one of those situations in which the general ruling was not aimed at Canada but could affect Canada, and I am very hopeful that the matter will be remedied shortly.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SPACE STATION INITIATIVE—REQUEST FOR CANADIAN SUPPORT

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. It is understood that the United States will be seeking support for its \$10 billion space station initiative at the upcoming London Economic Summit. Of course, President Reagan has already invited Canada's participation in this project.

Will the Acting Prime Minister confirm that President Reagan has written to the Prime Minister in recent weeks requesting Canada's support at the London Economic Summit for this initiative, and will he indicate the nature of the Prime Minister's response to the President of the United States? Was his answer to the President yes, or no?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be unwise to comment on possible subjects that may be raised or may not be raised at the Summit meeting in London. Such meetings are usually preceded by an extensive discussion among the participants on what subjects should be debated. I assume that my hon. friend knows that it would be better for all of us to wait until the discussion takes place and not get involved in what subjects are to be discussed and what subjects will be accepted or eliminated.

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IMMIGRATION

REFUSAL OF VISITORS' VISAS TO APPLICANTS DENIED LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS

Miss Aileen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Is the Minister prepared to change the practice of having visitors' visas automatically refused to applicants who have recently applied unsuccessfully for landed immigrant status by substituting the practice of having each application assessed individually on its merits?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to reflect on the suggestion that has been made to us by the Hon. Member.