

Oral Questions

introduction of drugs into these institutions. We are continually examining these measures. This matter is always under review and we will do our best to keep them out as much as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Has the minister received and looked into all the reports on the murders, suicides or suspicious deaths which have taken place in penitentiaries since last April, and is it not true that drugs account for most of them, particularly since three of these fatalities in the Leclerc institution alone are due to the easy and abusive use of drugs?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have seen the reports on the question of suicides and so on in the institutions but none of those I have seen have indicated to my recollection that they were due to drugs. However, I will look at those reports once again.

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TRANSPORT**DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING RAILWAYS TO GIVE COST DATA ON FREIGHT RATES**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Transport. In view of the urgent need that the government have access to railway cost data information on freight charges in order to formulate policies for implementation in the wake of the freeze on freight rates which is shortly to be lifted, could the minister now tell the House when legislation to expedite full disclosure will be introduced keeping in mind the unease of boards of trade, business and consumers in various parts of Canada who are seeking reassurance that their position will not be seriously eroded shortly when this freight rate freeze is lifted.

Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question I am not sure at what stage that legislation is. Perhaps the question would be better answered by the House Leader, but as near as I know from the department's point of view it should be ready for introduction later this week.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**DELAY IN PAYMENT FOR OVERTIME TO MEMBERS OF DRUG SQUAD IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of the upcoming Christmas season I gave him notice of this question. Can he advise the House when the \$38,000 in overtime pay will be paid to the RCMP drug squad in British Columbia?

[Mr. Allmand.]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, under the new overtime system which was introduced for the RCMP in recent months the obligation is to give the officers who have worked overtime "lieu-time off" in the two months following the overtime work. If it is impossible to give them that "lieu-time off" then they are paid overtime in the form of monetary compensation at the end of the two-month period. The RCMP is doing its best to send out those payments on time following the period of time I indicated.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION INDICATING PRESENCE OF CANCER-CAUSING ASBESTOS FIBRES IN GREAT LAKES—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of the Environment. Does the minister have a copy of the September report of the International Joint Commission which shows that potential cancer-causing asbestos fibres are contaminating the water supplies of Great Lakes cities, and if so why has this report not been made public?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the report is now being prepared and we expect it will be issued sometime during the month of February. However, because of reports in the newspapers of the discovery of this potential danger in the water we are now looking very closely at it. I might take this opportunity to point out to hon. members that our institute in Burlington had identified the problem and has developed a filter for the filtering of asbestos in the water and this filter is available to municipalities who would like to use it.

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COMMUNICATIONS**CABLEVISION—REASON FOR DELAY IN APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS OF CERTAIN OTTAWA VALLEY TOWNS**

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Communications of which I have given him notice. In view of the fact that the CRTC commenced hearings on September 17, 1973 into applications for cable television licences for the Ottawa Valley towns of Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior, Almonte, Carleton Place and Perth, and following those hearings said that an announcement concerning the decision would be made in a few weeks, indicating the middle of November 1973, and in view of the fact that almost a year and a half has gone by I am wondering whether the minister could please inform the House and the people of the Ottawa Valley towns when they might hear a definitive decision on when the cablevision licences will be granted? Could the minister explain the reasons for the delay to date and if a further delay is anticipated what the reason is for that?