

KINGSTON—REPRESENTATIONS FROM PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE RESPECTING GRANT TO GUARDS HELD HOSTAGE DURING RIOT

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): I should like to ask the Solicitor General if the government has considered the suggestion put forward by the corrections section of the Public Service Alliance for compensation and leave for correction officers held as hostages during the Kingston riot and, if so, what is the government's current attitude to this suggestion?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received a letter from Mr. Paul Gascon, the executive secretary of the association, and I am now examining his proposal.

* * *

[English]

FRUIT

STRAWBERRIES—EFFECT ON FRASER VALLEY GROWERS OF DUMPING OF MEXICAN PRODUCT—IMPOSITION OF SURTAX

Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question might properly be directed to the Minister of Finance but as the matter is urgent I shall direct it to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is the minister aware that strawberry growers in the Fraser Valley are now faced with ploughing up strawberry acreage as a result of the failure of the government to implement surtax regulations to combat the dumping of strawberries from Mexico, now allegedly taking place, as requested by representatives from Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Department of Finance is looking into this question with the co-operation of the Departments of Agriculture and Industry, Trade and Commerce. I shall ask the Minister of Finance to answer the question the next time he is in the House.

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might pose a supplementary question to the minister. While they are at it would they examine the situation in relation to Mexican eggs which are being brought into this country?

* * *

FISHERIES

SWORDFISH—ASSISTANCE TO FISHERMEN BECAUSE OF POLLUTION

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, the topic of my question knows no geographic limits.

Inquiries of the Ministry

May I ask the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry when he will be in a position to announce measures to be undertaken to help some 350 Nova Scotian swordfish fishermen?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Next week, I hope, Mr. Speaker. We have received the recommendations from the joint government industry task force. Many of them seem to be reasonable, and we will be acting on them as soon as possible.

* * *

[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONVERSION OF COQUALEETZA HOSPITAL INTO COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Is the minister in a position to assert categorically that no decision has yet been made concerning the conversion of Coqualeetza Hospital into a community centre at the request of the Indians?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I answer this question since the hon. member at the beginning of today's meeting rose on a question of privilege or on a point of order, in this connection. I must say that Mr. Bergevin, Assistant Deputy Minister for Indian and Eskimo affairs may have signed a letter on that date but he had not as yet put his recommendation to me. Since then, he did make a specific recommendation but I must inform the hon. member that the proposal submitted by that group of Indians in the area was not acceptable to the government since the group had promised that it would obtain funds from different sources both provincial and federal, and in the final analysis, the Indians were asking the government to foot the bill in full and at this moment we do not have the funds required for this.

Therefore, we were unable to accept the building which remains the property of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

The minister just stated that prior to writing his letter to the Indians Mr. Bergevin had not consulted him, which might explain his answer of March 24. Am I to take it that he is rejecting the contents of Mr. Bergevin's letter or is this letter still valid?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, since I received Mr. Bergevin's letter, I have written an identical letter to Mr. Wilbur T. Campbell.