

*Oral Questions*DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—
STUDY BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT OF EFFECT OF
POSSIBLE STRIKE

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Without implying I am satisfied with that answer, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Has the government reached any decision as to whether selective railway strikes are possible without shutting down the whole railway system or without disrupting essential services? If not, is such a study or determination underway and is the minister prepared to make a statement next week?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the government has never attempted to shut down part of the railways to see if it could be done.

[English]

DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—
CONTINGENCY PLANS OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
FOR MOVEMENT OF VITAL MATERIALS IN EVENT OF
STRIKE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister's department worked out contingency plans for the movement throughout Canada of foodstuffs and other vital materials?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think some negotiations are now going on between the railways and the union for specific cases such as Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and the special circumstances to which the hon. member is referring. I do not know if they will be successful. I do not think it would add any strength to the union to paralyze, for example, the ferries to Prince Edward Island. I hope they will reach some kind of an agreement with regard to those who are in a very special situation.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

LOCATION OF ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE AS RESULT OF
DECENTRALIZATION PLANS

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In the decentralization of his department, will the minister indicate if it is the intention of the government to move the regional office for Ontario to northern Ontario and if other offices will be made available in areas such as the Cochrane, Timmins and Timiskaming riding, rather than only in the southern fringe of the north such as Sudbury?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may recollect that when a similar question was asked by another member of the House the other day, I suggested it might be placed on the order paper or considered at the time of adjournment.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

PENITENTIARIES

WOMEN'S PRISON, KINGSTON—REASON FOR DELAY IN
CLOSING

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Almost three years ago the Report on the Status of Women recommended the closing of the women's prison at Kingston, Ontario. A few weeks ago, the minister said his officials were consulting with provincial officials regarding this matter. Will the minister tell us when the closing will take place and the reason for the delay?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we have been discussing this matter with the provincial attorneys general. It has been agreed to put the subject matter on the agenda of the Federal-Provincial Conference on Corrections which will take place in early November.

WILLIAM HEAD—REASON FOR CONVERSION TO MEDIUM
SECURITY INSTITUTION BEFORE HEARING
REPRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL CITIZENS

Mr. Donald Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is also addressed to the Solicitor General, but is in no way to be considered supplementary. On May 23, as recorded at page 4019 of *Hansard*, the Solicitor General gave an undertaking to the people near the William Head Prison that this institution would not be converted to a medium security prison until the representations and proposals of the community had been considered. Will the minister tell the House why residents of the area have now been advised by the minister that William Head is to become a medium security institution?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we did take the representations of the citizens seriously. They were examined by myself and officials of my department. We found we could not delay the implementation of medium security status at William Head. The representations were fully considered. I recently wrote a letter to the President of the Ratepayers' Association of Metchosin informing him we would have to go ahead with the plans for medium security status at William Head because we had a serious overcrowding problem and were not able to find other places for our prisoners at the present time.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): It is my information that the citizens have not yet submitted—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might ask his supplementary.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Is the minister prepared to release to me what he calls representations made by the citizens of the community, because I understand they have not fully submitted representations with regard to their problems?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, it was my impression they had submitted them. It was on that basis we examined and replied to them. They suggested, for example, that we