

*Oral Questions*

will resume, either as the much-delayed inquest or as the federal inquiry requested by the territorial coroner?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I do not have anything further to add at this point in time.

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**FINANCE****EXCISE TAX ON GASOLINE—EFFECT ON DIESEL FUEL OR BULK SALES OF GASOLINE TO FARMERS**

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is it correct to assume that diesel fuel will not be affected in any way by the ten cent tax on gasoline?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Your people were right.

**Mr. Towers:** Would the same answer hold true with regard to bulk sales of gasoline to farmers?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** If the fuel is being used for farm purposes, yes.

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*[Translation]***PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—OBSERVANCE BY RETAILERS OF REQUESTED DELAY IN IMPOSITION OF TAX**

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question.

In his budget speech, he prayed the companies—rightly so, I believe—to wait 45 days before increasing their oil prices. Can he confirm whether he has taken the necessary steps to ensure that his prayers be answered by these companies?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** I must take another look at the budget to find out whether there were indeed any such prayers.

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary. The Minister of Finance does not seem inclined to pray this morning. In any event, he requested quite firmly in this case that oil companies wait at least 45 days before boosting their prices by \$1.50 a barrel. Can the Minister of Finance tell us whether he made the necessary arrangements so these companies accept to wait 45 days before they apply that increase of \$1.50 a barrel of oil?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I believe so. The same waiting periods were used for the last price increase, and companies accepted the requirement. I can state that we are now subsidizing companies in eastern Canada to reduce prices. If they are not prepared to accept such a waiting period, there might be also a slight delay in the payment of the subsidy.

[Mr. Johnston.]

[English]

**PENITENTIARIES****FARRIS INQUIRY—POSSIBILITY OF HOSTAGES GIVING EVIDENCE IN CAMERA BECAUSE OF FEAR OF REPRISALS**

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I had a loaded question for the Prime Minister, but I do not want to put it to the Acting Prime Minister because he is such a poor actor.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nowlan:** I will direct a question to the Solicitor General and save my other one. It has to do with the Farris inquiry into the New Westminster problem that is now underway. I think the minister is aware of the substance of my question. As I understand it, Chief Justice Farris is considering what procedure to follow with the hostages that are apprehensive about giving evidence in public.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** St. Boniface, you should be quiet after what happened in Manitoba a couple of days ago.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Nowlan:** Has the minister consulted with his officials at New Westminster to ensure that the hostages who are apprehensive about giving evidence in public can give that evidence in camera, if necessary, without their names being published on the record so that any repercussions or reprisals which the hostages fear will not take place?

• (1200)

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** When the commission was set up it was agreed that in general the hearings would be public, but that the commissioners would have the right to hold parts of the proceedings in camera if it were considered necessary for the security of penitentiary employees or penitentiary security arrangements. The commission is an independent one. Those are the terms of reference and the commissioners themselves can decide whether to take certain evidence in camera. The hon. member is correct when he says that some of those who may be giving testimony are afraid that their lives might be in danger or that they would not be able to work any longer in the penitentiary service.

**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the House saw fit some time ago to give unanimous consent to the passage of a motion which, as I understand it, takes effect at once, so that June 30 will not now be a day for parliamentary business, may I ask the government House leader whether he has any proposition to put before us