

back into his department the money he took out in the budget?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out the other day, the money that has been cut from my department was money that was allocated originally for the regionalization of the administration and does not refer in any way to the security of the system.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND NATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour who, over the weekend was the star of stage and screen. Did the minister in fact meet with members of the National Longshoremen's Association from Montreal last Friday afternoon? If so, can he give some indication of the progress of those talks with regard to this particular program?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did meet with the longshoremen's union on Friday afternoon. It was a very useful discussion. During the course of our conversation, they indicated areas that they felt were matters of grievance. I listened to them and indicated that they should wait until the report of the referee I appointed is complete. He is commencing hearings this weekend. I think that procedure was generally acceptable to the union.

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CRIMINAL CODE

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR KIDNAPPING—PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIAL ATTORNEYS-GENERAL

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is along the same lines as that asked by the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta. I direct this to the Minister of Justice. Kidnapping and extortion is becoming a real fear to all people holding responsible positions and to their children. We had a case in Calgary over the weekend in which they extorted over a quarter of a million dollars. Is the minister prepared to amend Section 287 and put in a minimum sentence of ten years for kidnapping with no right of parole or release?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I certainly have not decided to make any such proposal in the current amendments. The general position we have taken is that minimum sentences, on the whole, are undesirable because judicial discretion can serve better results. It is open to judges under our present system to increase the penalties they are imposing. We are no doubt going to be reviewing our whole approach to penalties and releases in order to determine how we can more adequately secure peace and order in this country.

Privilege—Mr. Stanfield

Mr. Woolliams: Is the minister prepared to call together the provincial attorneys-general for a national conference in view of the fear of the people of Canada in the face of ever increasing crime? Armed robbery and kidnapping crimes are up about 67 per cent. The rate of murder is up. With statistics like that, it is time indeed that we had such a conference.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it is our plan to have another meeting with the attorneys-general in the fall. I should say, however, that from past experience, the attorneys-general, who have actual responsibility for enforcing the law, have tended to be against minimums in much the same way as I have, regardless of their political stripe, not wanting to take political advantage of a particular situation, as the hon. member seems to want to do.

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TRANSPORT

SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE"—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ELIMINATE DANGER TO ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport on a subject older than and as dangerous as the one referred to a while ago. It is in reference to the pollution time-bomb in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, namely the sunken *Irving Whale*. In light of recent sightings of vast oil spills in the area above this craft, can the minister advise what immediate and long range steps are being taken in reference to the continuing environmental menace to the region?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have received no technical advice other than that which I communicated to the House a few months ago. That means there is no evidence of any kind that the oil that spread around Prince Edward Island came from the *Irving Whale*.

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, we have had very recent indications that there are enormous spills. Therefore, will the minister investigate the matter forthwith?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. STANFIELD—REPORTED COMMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE RESPECTING "TIME" AND "READER'S DIGEST"

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a question of privilege arising out of comments attributed to the Secretary of State (Mr. Faulkner). He is reported to have said on July 4 that the companies publishing *Time* and *Reader's Digest* "were in