

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PROPOSED CHANGE IN BAIL LAW TO PREVENT RELEASE OF
RAPISTS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. Recently in Burnaby, British Columbia, a rapist was apprehended, brought before a judge and then released on his own recognizance. The young man then went out and promptly committed a second offence. I should like to ask the minister whether the promised peace and security legislation will limit the power of judges to release apprehended rapists on their own recognizance?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I hope the legislation which was passed by the House a couple of weeks ago, and is currently before the other place will be dealt with expeditiously by them, then will become law, so that changes in the Bail Act will become effective as soon as possible. It will be these provisions that will deal with the situation that the hon. member raised.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF DUTY FREE
SHOPS—REASON FOR WARNING TO CONSUMERS ABOUT
PURCHASES AT DUTY FREE SHOPS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Can the hon. gentleman inform this House on the progress, if any, that is being made in investigating specific complaints into certain aspects of duty free establishments?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say to the hon. member that even before I received the document he sent to my office, the newspapers were already informed of the matter. This shows that the publicity around this whole issue was more important to him than a real investigation by my office.

In any event, I immediately referred the files to the director of investigations who has the responsibility under the law, to investigate and publish his conclusions only after the investigation.

[English]

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer, but I was not referring to my complaint but to another one of which, I am sure, he has knowledge.

Will the minister table or state briefly the reasons why he authorized a warning to consumers in the October 1975 issue of his own departmental publication entitled "Consumer Contact" which said in part:

Some articles, like brand name cameras, can sometimes be obtained at Canadian department stores at lower prices than at duty free shops.

On what basis was this done, and was any research done by his department?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: The officials of my department who write articles for this publication do so in good faith and I cannot accept what the hon. member said, which seems to question the good faith and the integrity of those who prepare such articles for the department.

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[English]

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN CONCERNING EASIER REFERENCE
OF DISPUTED DECISIONS TO ADMINISTRATOR—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister arising out of a press report this morning which quotes Mr. Pepin, the chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, as saying that he and the Minister of Finance have "agreed to try to make it easier" to refer disputed AIB decisions to the administrator. Does that statement by Mr. Pepin, which was concurred in by the Minister of Finance, represent government policy and, if so, does this mean that the government is prepared to introduce an amendment to section 17 of the Anti-Inflation Act so that either employers or employees can appeal a decision of the AIB without getting consent from the AIB, or has the government some other procedure which it proposes to follow?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): What it means essentially is that Mr. Pepin, the Anti-Inflation Board and the Minister of Finance are reviewing this situation with a view to submitting various alternatives to cabinet. There is no government policy on it yet; the matter will have to come to cabinet. Personally, as I think is obvious from some of my earlier answers, I am not inclined to think that there is an injustice here. However, as the hon. member has just pointed out, the Minister of Finance is reviewing that situation and there will be a report to cabinet. If any action is decided upon, we will of course report to the House.

GOVERNMENT INTENTION WITH REGARD TO PERMITTING
APPEAL DIRECTLY TO TRIBUNAL

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Is the government also considering the possibility of amending the act so that an appeal can be made directly from a decision of the Anti-Inflation Board to the appeal tribunal bypassing the administrator and letting the administrator later be the person to enforce the decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board as amended by the appeal tribunal, which would short-circuit this prolonged process and also give to both parties who feel aggrieved the right, either jointly or separately, to appeal?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is a possibility. I think it is obvious that in a country where controls are being imposed there is an evolution of thinking on this matter. I repeat that my own thinking was made clear earlier. I think the law as it is presently conceived is a good way of attacking inflation, with the Anti-