

Committee Reports

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the other day I quoted from the letter from Mr. Pearson. I quote to the effect that he said, among other things: "I must also note for the record, the distinguished contribution of your party in the area of film and television production. From September, 1984, the Progressive Conservative Government has lived up to their commitment to strengthen Canadian production with dedication and with effort".

That is what was in the letter that I tabled the other day in the House and from which I quoted.

If the Hon. Member has charges to make against anyone in the organization whatsoever, bring them forward to me and I will see that they will be investigated. However, allegations, smear, and innuendo do not constitute the basis for investigation. Surely the Member would want to stand in his place and make the specific charges to which he seems to be alluding. I can assure him I will follow them up.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN IMPRISONED IN NEW JERSEY—TRANSFER OF OFFENDERS TREATY**

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs my question is directed to the Solicitor General. I begin by thanking him and his officials, as well as the Secretary of State for External Affairs and his officials, for their interest and concern in the case of a Nova Scotia person by the name of Bruce Curtis who is incarcerated in a New Jersey jail.

The Minister will know that Canada and the United States signed a Transfer of Offenders Treaty which has subsequently been ratified by the state Government of New Jersey. Will the Minister explain to the House why there is such delay in New Jersey by Governor Kean with regard to releasing Bruce Curtis so he may come to Canada and be incarcerated in a Canadian penal institution?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member and Members of the House that his facts are quite correct. Indeed, the treaty was passed by our two countries and has been implemented by the State of New Jersey. Under the terms of that agreement, both the State of New Jersey and the federal Government would have to agree to the transfer. We have no objections whatsoever and we are prepared to facilitate it, but, first of all, New Jersey must make the decision to agree to it. We are awaiting its approval, which we hope will be forthcoming.

• (1500)

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. The Minister must be aware that the assurances being sought by the state Government, particularly Governor Kean, are beyond the provisions of the treaty. In essence, what they are attempting to do is amend a consummated legal binding treaty signed by Canada and the United States.

Will the Minister undertake to the House that he will make representations to the United States Government to have it live up to the provisions of the treaty it has signed and agreed to? Will the Minister come back to the House and give us an accounting as to why it has been so long that this young Nova Scotian has been incarcerated in a New Jersey jail?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Hon. Member that, under the terms of the agreement, we are in no position to force the State of New Jersey to agree to this exchange. However, I can advise the Hon. Member that my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, on October 29, 1987, and February 8, 1988, wrote to the Governor of New Jersey requesting implementation by the State of the provisions of this agreement. I am hopeful that these letters written by the Secretary of State for External Affairs will bring forth a favourable response from the State of New Jersey.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER**TABLING OF LETTER BY MINISTER**

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I mentioned during Question Period that I wished to table a letter from the President of the Canadian Film and Television Association.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**PRESENTATION OF TWELFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present the twelfth report of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Business in both official languages.

This report deals with the selection of votable items pertaining to the tenth draw which took place on February 9, 1988.