

[Translation]

### THE ECONOMY

#### ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE CAISSES D'ENTRAIDE ÉCONOMIQUE DU QUÉBEC

**Mr. Pierre Gimaïel (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Madam Speaker, I will try to put a somewhat shorter question than my honourable colleagues opposite did. It is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. He is no doubt aware of the current situation concerning the economic mutual help unions in Quebec. In view of the importance of those unions, and of the fact that they have been, along with DREE, one of the major instruments of economic development in our Quebec regions for the last ten years, could the minister state the Canadian government's position on the current situation within the economic mutual help unions movement in Quebec?

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State (Finance)):** Madam Speaker, in the first place I agree with the hon. member that the mutual help unions are important to consolidate the economies of the various regions in Quebec. I would further suggest to the hon. member that under the present conditions, it is no wonder that a financial institution may face difficulties. However, the best possible protection for depositors or members of a mutual help union in my view is for them to retain their trust in that financial institution. Finally, under an agreement between the Quebec Deposit Insurance Board and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation, in case the Quebec Deposit Insurance Board were in need of cash, a line of credit of some \$100 million has been granted by the Canada Insurance Deposit Corporation, a federal institution.

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[English]

### PENITENTIARIES

#### RIOT AT MATSQUI INSTITUTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. As the minister knows, there has been a full scale riot at Matsqui Institution in British Columbia, starting last night, in which all cell blocks and a number of other buildings were burned and, in fact, completely gutted. At least seven prisoners were injured, one critically. The army has been called in, among other things, to evacuate staff from the roof of the institution.

Will the minister inform the House what sparked this very serious riot and what the present status of the riot is? Will he assure the House that he intends to visit the site of Matsqui Institution immediately to take control of the situation?

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

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, when I came into the House at two o'clock today, the riot was still ongoing. In view of that I think that it would be better not to speak about the causes of it or about the steps which are

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being taken to quell the riot. However, I want to indicate to the House that the perimeter security is standing and that the community surrounding that institution is not in any risk. Members of the Armed Forces have come on to the site, along with members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to reinforce the perimeter security.

A special inquiry will be held. In fact it was launched this morning in the normal course in relation to a serious incident such as this. When the disturbance is over I would be very glad to answer questions of the sort the hon. member has asked.

● (1500)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is again addressed to the Solicitor General. As he knows, in 1977 a special subcommittee of Parliament passed a unanimous report making recommendations for changes in the penitentiary system, saying that there was a state of crisis in the system. In view of the fact that many of those recommendations have not been implemented by the government and by the commissioner, and in view of the fact that there clearly exists a state of crisis in the system today when we look at Laval, Dorchester, and now Matsqui, what steps does the minister intend to take to implement the unanimous recommendations of the special subcommittee report, to prevent the possibility of a very long, hot, and possibly explosive summer in the Canadian prison system?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I do not anticipate a long, hot, explosive summer in the penitentiary system. In fact I do not think this incident can be characterized as being a crisis. Almost all of the recommendations of the parliamentary committee have been implemented. There have been four progress reports made to the committee, of which the hon. member is a member. He has had a full opportunity, as have all members, to see the extent to which there has been full implementation of that report. A fifth progress report is in the course of preparation. I think it would be very far from accurate to say that there is a state of crisis in Canada's penitentiaries.

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[Translation]

### ENERGY

#### CURRENT POLICY

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, if he can come back to his seat.

During the last election campaign in February 1980, the Liberals promised Canadians that the price of gasoline would remain low. In fact, the Minister of Finance published the following announcement about this issue in a paper in his riding on January 23: "Vote Liberal and Keep the price down!" Fourteen months later, Canadians have to pay 60 cents