Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE ORDERS OF BOARD SUBJECT TO SCRUTINY OF COMMITTEE ON STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance as soon as the chorus had died down. Having in mind the interpretation placed on statutory instruments by officials of the Privy Council, will the minister affirm the fact that orders of the Anti-Inflation Board and the administrator will in fact be considered as regulations and as such subject to scrutiny by the Joint Committee on Statutory Regulations.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I could refer the hon. gentleman to the rather extensive answer I gave on that point to the standing committee when Bill C-73 was before it in response to the hon. member for Halifax who is the joint chairman of the committee. There were some very precise questions in this area and I sought to answer them with the same precision.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINER FACILITY AT WRIGHT'S COVE IN VIEW OF PROXIMITY OF NAVAL MAGAZINE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Because of the time I will add a supplementary. Would the minister indicate to the House the present status and nature of the conversations between his department and the province of Nova Scotia with regard to the container pier facility proposed at Navy Island Cove and as well whether or not the government has determined, in respect of these same discussions, whose ultimate responsibility it is for safety measures and the whole question of the proximity of the proposed development to the naval magazine.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I know the provincial government has a plan to construct a container facility. One of the possible sites was Wright's Cove in the Bedford Basin. We have indicated to the government that the Canadian forces naval magazine is in that area and that it would therefore not be a practical place to build. I understand the provincial government is now considering other locations.

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PENITENTIARIES

MILLHAVEN—GOVERNMENT POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON GASSING AND BEATING OF INMATES

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. In view of the fact that the Solicitor General either has neglected or refused up to now to give us a full report on [Mr. Mackasey.] the Millhaven incident of November 3, can he now advise the House whether he can now give us a full report and tell us what the government's policy is in respect of making public the findings of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries in cases of proven beatings or gassing of inmates by guards.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Well, Mr. Speaker, to begin with there is no written report of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries in respect to this incident. It is true there was an incident a short while ago when a guard is alleged to have used gas contrary to the regulations of the penitentiary service. When the officials of the penitentiary found that out they immediately suspended him from duty. He appealed the suspension. That appeal is presently awaiting hearing. We will have more to say once the hearing has been held. It is true that a gassing did take place contrary to the regulations and that one of the inmates was injured to a certain extent as a result of that. There were some other incidents related to that happening.

POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO GASSING AND BEATING OF INMATES

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, would the Solicitor General advise the House whether or not the news report over the weekend to the effect that the Commissioner of Penitentiaries will be conducting public hearings is correct and if, in fact, that will be the case with regard to this incident and other incidents of a similar nature in penitentiaries across Canada.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, what we are considering is an investigation by the correctional ombudsman. She is presently away from Ottawa. I have tried to reach her by phone. I had some preliminary discussions with her. That may be possible.

MANPOWER

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSIST ESSEX PACKERS EMPLOYEES WHO FACE LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Some days ago I asked the minister what steps his department was considering taking to assist the Essex Packers workers in Hamilton who face the loss of their jobs. I wonder if the minister is now in a position to report any progress in providing assistance in this sorry situation.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable consultation with the representatives of the firm and the union, particularly on behalf of my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Labour who has a special interest in it. I believe there are some potential offers in the state of development now and I think we will have some news within the next few days.