

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate for one last supplementary on this subject, and then recognize the hon. member for Broadview.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that there is continuous reference to a number of contingency plans and control systems being studied by the government, and also by the gentleman running interference for the government, has the government evidence that the economy has reached a crisis situation of emergency proportions, in terms of unemployment and inflation, sufficient to justify this kind of talk, and does the government in fact plan to introduce these kinds of emergency measures?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite clear from the very words used by the hon. member that these are contingency plans. They are prepared for a contingency that may or may not arise. I think the hon. gentleman will agree that if circumstances should justify it we should have plans for this purpose, but we do not think these circumstances exist now.

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**PENITENTIARIES****CHARGES AGAINST INMATES FOLLOWING KINGSTON RIOT  
—PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES BY MILLHAVEN GUARDS  
CHARGED WITH OFFENCES**

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Have charges been laid against any of the inmates of Millhaven institution with regard to alleged offences committed at Kingston penitentiary?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Gilbert:** Are the guards against whom charges have been laid still performing their duties at Millhaven institution?

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, no disciplinary action has been taken against the guards in the light of the well known basic rule in criminal law to the effect that an individual is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Besides, upon consultations with the local unit of the Public Service Alliance, we agreed that the guards would have no direct contact with the inmates of Millhaven.

[English]

**Mr. Gilbert:** Why would inmates at Millhaven who have not been charged be transferred to another institution and the guards who have been charged with offences be retained at Millhaven institution?

[Mr. Lundrigan.]

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat that no criminal charges have as yet been laid against the inmates. I am still waiting for the Ontario Provincial Police to finish their investigation into the death of two inmates and the case of the ten wounded in Kingston when the inmates were in full control of the cell-block and of the dome.

We have taken no disciplinary action following the events at Kingston penitentiary.

[English]

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Solicitor General whether, in view of the fact that he talks about a presumption of innocence so far as the guards are concerned, he is following that same presumption of law so far as the inmates are concerned? In light of his answer may I put this to him: is he going to make a statement to explain his warning or threat that there will be no prison reforms unless the prisoners act responsibly? What kind of threats is he making, and what response does he expect?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked quite a few questions, but I would think that basically he is asking whether a statement will be made by the Solicitor General. Perhaps the Solicitor General might reply to that question.

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, what I have said is that if reforms are in order, they will be undertaken. There is no other way to proceed. That is what I have said. It is very simple: to make reforms, we need the co-operation of the inmates, of the guards and of the public in general.

[English]

**Mr. Woolliams:** In view of the statement by the Solicitor General about the presumption of innocence which he applies to the guards, does he apply that same rule of law to the prisoners and inmates of the penitentiaries particularly in light of the threats he has made to them?

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, we certainly respect the law and we do not intend deviating from total respect of the law as was done outside penitentiaries. In the penitentiaries we are subject to the law and respect it.

This having been said, I would mention that I have made my remarks on reforms after the events which took place in Dorchester, namely after the second outbreak of troubles and violence. And I am saying again that it is not possible to effect reforms amidst disorder.

[English]

**KINGSTON RIOT—DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST  
INMATES**

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General, Mr. Speaker. In light of the minister's statement that no disciplinary action has been taken, would he kindly explain to the