

Oral Questions

committed to full co-operation with both of these inquests. There is no intention whatsoever to interfere in the operation of these inquests.

REFORM OF PAROLE SYSTEM LEGISLATION—TIMING OF INTRODUCTION

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Government does not intend to challenge the jurisdiction of the coroner. Canadians generally are fed up with the present parole system. They are afraid of dangerous inmates being released to half-way houses without proper supervision.

Two months ago the Solicitor General announced proposals to reform the parole system in Canada. He promised us legislation within a matter of weeks. That was two months ago. When does the Government intend to follow through on the commitment of the Solicitor General to introduce legislation to reform the criminal justice system, in particular the parole system in Canada?

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General has taken the initiative of making changes to the parole system. He went across the country and listened to various groups. It is a position that is taking time to have public input. We hope to have a Bill prepared and presented to the House very soon.

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VISIBLE MINORITIES

INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-CANADIANS DURING WORLD WAR II—DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the issue of redress for Japanese-Canadians which the Deputy Prime Minister knows very well is a matter of honour, national and personal.

In his answers to my questions yesterday the Prime Minister suggested that the Government is dealing with the National Association of Japanese Canadians. However, the President of the NAJC tells me this morning that there are no meetings scheduled to discuss redress.

Does the Deputy Prime Minister, who is managing the politics of multiculturalism for the Government, have any plans to arrange serious and substantial discussions on redress with the National Association of Japanese Canadians?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to manage the politics of multiculturalism. It is being handled very well by the Minister responsible for multiculturalism. I think he is doing an excellent job.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mazankowski: I can assure the Hon. Member that he is seized with this very sensitive and important issue and I think the Prime Minister indicated yesterday the sincerity of the Government in trying to deal with this issue. I can tell the Hon. Member, as the Prime Minister indicated yesterday, that we hope to have a resolution to this matter in the very near future.

• (1140)

REQUEST FOR ACTION ON INDIVIDUAL COMPENSATION

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister who is certainly involved in trying to recognize the needs of multiculturalism. Will the Deputy Prime Minister take the kind of action this Government has not seen anyone else take to break the log-jam and get action on individual compensation for Japanese-Canadian survivors? There has to be action of that sort if there is going to be any kind of resolution.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister's personal commitment and involvement in this matter are pretty clear from the answers he gave in the House yesterday. The Minister for Multiculturalism has met on occasions with the leaders of the Japanese community. I am not aware if there has been any further meeting scheduled, but there are recommendations that are currently being considered. I can say that to the Hon. Member. I am sure when those recommendations will be considered and acted upon, further discussions will take place, but I can assure the Hon. Member that progress is being made.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—STOCK SAVINGS PLANS

Mr. Jim Jepson (London East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I am concerned about an issue raised yesterday by the Leader of the Official Opposition concerning the ability of the Quebec Government or, indeed, any provincial Government, to operate or establish new stock savings plans once the free trade agreement is in force. Could the Minister tell the House whether the free trade agreement prevents—

Ms. Copps: Who wrote that, Jim?

Mr. Jepson: —Quebec, or, indeed, any province from encouraging people to invest in their economy through stock savings plans, or from implementing other professional measures?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think my response yesterday was specifically related to stock