

*Oral Questions*

desire of these people to establish free democratic governments in their homelands, whether during his recent trip to the Soviet Union the minister raised the question of freeing the Balkan states and permitting them to hold free, democratic elections with all political parties participating. Has he raised this question with the Soviets and, if so, what was their response?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been to the Soviet Union recently, nor do I have any immediate intention of going. They are sending enough guests over here.

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## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

## CHANGES IN PAROLE LAWS

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It arises by virtue of the chairman of the Waterloo Police Commission stating that he is going to write to the Solicitor General to ask him to consider changes in our parole laws to prevent the recurrence of an incident in which the police spent something like \$85,000 to prevent sexual offenders from repeating their offences. My question is—

**An hon. Member:** I can't hear a word you are saying because your colleague is making such a racket.

**Mr. Crouse:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

**Mr. Crouse:** The minister misled this House when he said on Wednesday evening he has been in the Soviet Union.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Crouse:** Tell us the truth.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. In spite of the allegation which the hon. member now makes, the minister gave a clear answer to the House. I am not under any impression that it could mislead the House in any way.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I will readdress my question to the Solicitor General. It arises by virtue of the report that the commissioner of the Waterloo Police Commission is writing to the Solicitor General with respect to changes to be considered in the parole laws to prevent the recurrence of an incident there on which the police spent something like \$85,000 to prevent a sexual offender from repeating his offences. Is the Solicitor General now giving consideration to changes in the parole laws and regulations which might avoid recurrence of this type of situation and, if so, when will these changes be brought before parliament?

[Mr. Crouse.]

● (1202)

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the letter from the Waterloo chief of police and I do not know about the event referred to. I will have to look at the record, see the letter and perhaps provide some additional information to the honourable gentleman later.

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## AIR TRANSPORT

## FIRST-CLASS SERVICE TO WESTERN MANITOBA AND EASTERN SASKATCHEWAN

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. The hon. gentleman is aware of the promise made by the government four years ago to provide first-class air service to western Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. I would like to ask the minister if he is also aware that an application is now before the Air Transport Committee from Great Lakes Air Lines to provide jet service to this area at the earliest possible date, and would he use his good offices to get this service into operation as quickly as possible in 1978, as he promised he would during a visit to the Westman area last fall?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I was aware that the application by Great Lakes was going forward. I would not, of course, want to comment on that application, which must first be dealt with by the Canadian Transport Commission which has been charged by parliament to determine whether any particular application is in the public interest.

At the same time, I should say that I am awaiting a decision by the commission on a number of other applications which have been before it and which would offer service under a variety of different forms to Brandon and the area of Yorkton and Dauphin, as well, in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. As soon as the CTC decision is made, I will be able to act and provide service if the CTC so recommends.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, can the hon. gentleman be optimistic and give us the encouragement that, after all these years, the service will be in operation in time for the winter games early in 1979? The Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport is in Brandon today making a contribution of \$750,000, so obviously the government regards this question as top priority.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I am very optimistic that all the steps required to put the service in place can be completed well before the date of the winter games.