

*Oral Questions*

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert):

That the House instruct the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts to carry out a thorough study of the Quebec education law and its application to student loans and bursaries, with a view to ascertaining whether the credits granted by the government of Canada to the government of Quebec for student grants are in fact used to that end, and that the committee suggest, if necessary, by what ways and means the government of Canada could ensure that the money granted to the Quebec government for that purpose should be used exclusively for the benefit of students.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Under the terms of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent, and so the motion cannot be put.

[*English*]

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, before we leave motions I wonder whether I could raise a point of order. It has come to my attention that an error of some \$47 million in the Canada-U.S. automotive trade figures released two days ago has been made by Statistics Canada. As a result, instead of having a deficit on trade in automotive products with the United States of \$41.2 million as originally announced, there is a surplus of \$5.8 million. I wonder whether we could ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) to make a brief explanatory statement to the House on this very important matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member will recognize that this is hardly a point of order. I would think it is a question that might be asked during the question period by way of a suggestion at that time that we might revert to motions for the purpose of hearing a statement from the minister. I think there might be difficulty if under motions hon. members ask questions of ministers to invite them to make statements during routine proceedings. Perhaps the hon. member might like to put that question during the question period.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### PENITENTIARIES

#### DISTURBANCE AT MILLHAVEN—PRESENT SITUATION— RETRAINING OF STAFF

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General, whom I reluctantly disturb at this particular moment. Can the Solicitor General reassure the House that the disturbances involving a sitdown at the Millhaven institution are under control and that there is no danger of an escalation which could cause serious injuries either to inmates or the custodial staff?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, there has been a sitdown strike of inmates since last weekend, but there has been no real trouble. It has been a peaceful sitdown strike up to this point. Yesterday there was a meeting between officials of the department and representatives of the inmate population, and it is hoped that we will have a full report as soon as possible.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Would the minister reassure the House as to who is in control of Millhaven? Is it the custodial staff or the inmates?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, the officials of the penitentiary system and the director of the penitentiary with his men are in control.

**Mr. Nielsen:** In view of the fact that the Swackhamer report refers to a "custodial subculture" as having a detrimental effect on the over-all rehabilitation program, could the minister say what steps are being taken to ensure that staff at all levels and in all institutions are being accorded equal opportunity for training in modern methods of penology, which has not been the case up to the present?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, several months ago—I am not sure of the exact date—refresher courses were started for all levels of staff, including custodial staff, so that they will be trained in new rehabilitative methods.

**Mr. Nielsen:** At Kingston?

**Mr. Allmand:** Yes, at Kingston College. I am not too sure how many from the Kingston area were involved. I might say that this sitdown strike started originally as a result of a stabbing incident between inmates. A frisking of the inmates was carried out to find out whether any weapons were involved and from there it went on to other things. We hope to have a full report on the matter as soon as possible.

#### REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF VISITORS COMMITTEES TO FACILITATE DISPOSITION OF GRIEVANCES

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Will the minister establish on a priority basis a penitentiary visitors committee to facilitate grievance procedures, which are now solely dependent upon prison administrations? Such a committee might be a source of relief for some of the bitterness and frustration that exists in Canadian penitentiaries.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, that is one of the recommendations that has not yet been implemented but is under study. Personally I am very interested in it, and as soon as the studies are completed I will make a report to the House. I might say that there are experimental visitors committees operating with respect to some penitentiaries and we are using this experience in reaching a decision.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Would the minister acknowledge that this recommendation was made in 1938 by Judge Archam-