

are going to declare war on the Corporation. If it does not, does it intend to axe this project?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I believe the President of the Canada Post Corporation appeared yesterday before a Parliamentary Committee, where the matter was discussed and where the Corporation promised to submit a full report on this pilot project within the coming weeks.

I am also aware that the Canada Post Corporation intends to issue a press release within the next few days, if not hours, regarding this pilot project.

As for the agreement between the Canada Post Corporation and Consumers Distributing, I have been informed that both parties have agreed to terminate the project on June 29, 1984, in all post offices where the pilot project is being tested.

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[English]

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. I draw to his attention a letter he received from the Programme D'Échange Étudiants du Canada, exchange programs in which all Members of Parliament have been involved at one time or another. We feel they are very worth while. They have been asking for seed money for some considerable time; I understand for a total of about 14 years. Will the Minister reconsider this request because money spent on this type of program is far more beneficial than putting together brochures with pictures of Liberal Members of Parliament and handing them out to their constituents on the South Shore?

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has mentioned one of my Department's most important programs, which is aimed at increasing Canadians' knowledge of this country, and its various regions. The Student Exchange Program of Canada has been in existence for many years and has been very successful. We turn down nearly as many requests as we accept, owing to the tremendous popularity of this program. This group, which has received money in past years, will also be receiving offers of financing, depending on the financial resources made available to us by Parliament and on the number of applications we receive. I would therefore urge all young people who wish to participate in the program to file an application, because in doing so they will not only be helping us to help them know their country better, but they will also realize the diversity of Canadian culture and understand how Canada's cultural resources are a part of our Canadian identity.

• (1150)

[English]

Oral Questions

THE CENSUS

COLLECTION OF DATA ON VISIBLE MINORITIES

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister who is covering for Statistics Canada. Recommendation 24 of the report Equality Now recommends that in the 1986 mini-census, and in the 1991 Census, Statistics Canada should include the requisite additional questions to elicit accurate information regarding visible minorities and that these questions should be accompanied by an appropriate explanation. I am wondering if we could have a response from the Minister to indicate what action is being taken on this particular recommendation contained in the Equality Now report, and if he could indicate what the current status is of the 1986 Census.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry. I see that there is no one volunteering to answer the question, so I will take notice of it.

Mr. Speaker: In the circumstances it is difficult to have a supplementary question if the Minister is just taking notice of it. However, if the Hon. Member feels that he has a legitimate supplementary question, I will hear him.

DATA ON RELIGION

Mr. Laverne Lewycky (Dauphin-Swan River): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may ask the Minister who is covering for Statistics Canada and is taking notice of my question to find out why the questions related to the religion module are being dropped, or are proposed to be dropped by Statistics Canada, when the recommendations contained in the Equality Now report recommended the recognition of all cultural groups. As well, our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the freedom of religion. I do not feel that this kind of action on the part of Statistics Canada can be justified.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to add a religious dimension to my inquiry.

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PENITENTIARIES

ESCAPED CONVICT—THREAT TO TRIAL WITNESSES

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General who will know that Wayne Boden was convicted partly on the basis of evidence provided by Calgarians. In return for giving evidence, the lives of those Calgarians were threatened. I would like the Minister to give us some indication of what steps his Department took to warn those witnesses that Wayne Boden was loose and what