

Oral Questions

Mr. McGrath: In spite of the fact that the minister has no control over non biological leaks—and we readily concede that—obviously as a minister he has to take responsibility for his department and for leaks which emanate from within that department. Given the announcement and the embarrassment this has caused the government and the ambassador, will the minister at least undertake an investigation within his department to see who is responsible?

Mr. Jamieson: Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, and let me assure the House that if I find out, there may very well be some biological leaks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PENITENTIARIES

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO IMPROVE INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Solicitor General a question. There is now evidence coming from members of parliament serving on a special committee of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs with regard to penitentiaries which shows that these places are almost horror chambers. Men as young as 15 years of age are being subjected to disgusting sex acts. Is the Solicitor General now going to take a step, or is he going to wait for the report before getting rid of these horror chambers in Canada?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I must say that one of the reasons why we set up a parliamentary committee was precisely to shed more light on the conditions in Canadian penitentiaries and try to educate some members of the official opposition who have always been reluctant—to endorse some improvements which we would have liked to make in the penitentiary system.

It is certain that criminal acts perpetrated in our penitentiaries and brought to our attention will always be prosecuted. In this case, the facts reported by the hon. member will be drawn to the attention of the British Columbia attorney general.

[*English*]

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest respect to the minister, I appreciate that there will be a report, but there are reports appearing in the media about witnesses who are giving evidence—

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder why the hon. member would laugh at this; it is very important. I wonder why the Solicitor General would wait and not take steps to clean up what I call horror chambers.

[*Mr. Jamieson.*]

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, not long ago in the House the colleague of the hon. member, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), asked me to delay any change and any new penitentiary construction program until the House committee made its report. Hon. members of the official opposition could perhaps agree to take a common position. As for myself, I do not intend to delay the proceedings of the House. As I said earlier in reply to a question of the hon. member for Yukon, we intend to carry out our construction program and close at last some of those fortresses in the country.

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[*English*]

THE ESTIMATES

DATE OF REFERENCE OF DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS TO COMMITTEES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the President of the Privy Council. With the tabling of the estimates yesterday, when can the House anticipate the motion allocating the various departmental estimates to the House committees? There are less than eight working weeks before the guillotine falls to close the study of those estimates. May we have the motion tomorrow?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it will be put to the House either tomorrow or on Monday, but certainly at the earliest possible moment.

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NATIONAL ANTHEM

DATE WHEN LEGISLATION WILL BE INTRODUCED

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, my question is to one of the 15 ministers present in the House; with 14 others being in Toronto. I would like to ask the President of the Privy Council when he intends to call item No. 10 on the order paper, respecting the national anthem of Canada.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have already announced to the House the legislation which will be before the House for some time, and I do not see a moment in space or time in which I would be able very soon to call this bill.

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MANPOWER

PRACTICE OF SUPPLYING WORKERS TO COMPANIES WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE ON STRIKE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that Canada Manpower offices are referring scab