

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SHOOTING IN TOWN OF BRAMPTON—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. Ross Milne (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of grief and shock that I rise to advise the House that about an hour ago there was a major shooting in the town of Brampton, as a result of which a high school teacher and a student were murdered and probably as many as 16 other students injured by the same gun fire. I should like to ask the Solicitor General if he would pledge his efforts to have the Royal Canadian Mounted Police co-operate in any way they can with the local police relative to the gun issue and perhaps even question whether the government will seriously review the gun legislation in Canada?

Mr. Horner: Was it a stolen gun?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I just heard about this terrible crime during the question period. I understand there was a labour problem in that school and this young boy entered the classroom and shot the teacher and some of the students. I intend to get a full report on the situation that led to the crime—the background of the boy and how he came into possession of the guns.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

SUGGESTED REFERENDUM ON RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General.

In the light of statistics which indicate an increase in murders in the country, could the minister tell the House whether he is prepared to let the Canadian people decide whether they are in favour of the restoration of the death penalty through a referendum?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, that is a question that will be decided by parliament. The government does not intend to have a referendum on the issue. I think if we are seriously concerned with the problem of murder we should direct our resources and attention to the causes of crime and not to penalties that will have no effect whatsoever.

AGRICULTURE

USE OF INSECTICIDE SEVIN—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and in his absence I presume his parliamentary secretary will deal with it. It arises from complaints I have received from constituents as a result of the govern-

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ment's present program of aerial spraying with the dangerous insecticide Sevin to kill gypsy moths attacking trees in Frontenac county. Since this spray also kills wild and tame bees and beneficial predator insects as well as the birds that eat them, may I ask what the government is doing to assure the safety of the latter and to avoid disruption and damage to the basic balance of nature by this dangerous insecticide?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question directed to the minister who will be pleased to answer on his return.

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[English]

FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF MINISTER CONTINUING IN PORTFOLIO IN LIGHT OF VIEW EXPRESSED BY MINISTER OF LABOUR ON WAGE INCREASES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance who has made it a very central concern to express a position against the erosion of Canada's competitive position, and has frequently expressed the view that our competitive position is being seriously jeopardized by the rate of increase in wages and salaries in Canada. In view of the fact that the Minister of Labour has expressed the view that this is a prevailing myth, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether he intends to continue to serve in that portfolio in a government in which the Minister of Labour expresses a completely contrary view?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I intend to serve in the government as long as the Prime Minister asks me to serve.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. May I ask the Minister of Finance how he proposes to restore the credibility of the policy position he has taken in view of the fact that the Minister of Labour has directly challenged the validity of that position?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should not like to think that my credibility depended entirely on the view of the Leader of the Opposition.

INFLATION—PROPOSED LIMITATION ON GROWTH OF MONEY SUPPLY

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance in regard to his concern about inflation. Has he noticed a recent reduction in credit purchases in Canada which corresponds to a reduction in credit purchases in the United States?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, because that is a very carefully posed question,