

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if the parliamentary secretary would simply clarify whether question 5,204 was included.

Mr. Blais: It was not, Mr. Speaker; it was scratched.

* * *

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if question No. 3,838 could be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

[Text]

PEI COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Question No. 3,838—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

1. With reference to the fishing sector of the Prince Edward Island Comprehensive Development Plan, for each year since 1965, what was the (a) number of fish processing plants in operation in PEI (b) number of pounds of fish processed (i) at all plants combined (ii) on an average per plant (c) percentage of the total PEI fish catch processed in (i) PEI (ii) outside PEI (d) total market value of fish products processed in PEI in (i) real dollars (ii) constant dollars (e) average market value of fish products per plant in (i) real dollars (ii) constant dollars (f) percentage change over the previous year in market value of fish products produced (i) at all plants combined (ii) on an average per plant (g) number of weeks in operation (i) of all plants combined (ii) on an average per plant (h) number of workers employed (i) at all plants combined (ii) on an average per plant (i) number of man-hours of employment (i) at all plants combined (ii) on an average per worker (j) total income paid to workers at processing plants in (i) real dollars (ii) constant dollars (k) average income paid per worker in (i) real dollars (ii) constant dollars (l) number of fishermen who worked part-time at processing plants (m) average percentage of family income for all fishermen derived from employment in a processing plant?

2. Have any fish processing plants in PEI received financial assistance from the government since 1969 and, if so, as totals (a) what were the sources of this assistance (b) from each source, what were the (i) amounts (ii) types (iii) purposes of assistance (c) what percentage of financial assistance went to (i) processing plant consolidation (ii) creation of new processing plants?

3. For each new processing plant since 1969 which received assistance under the Regional Development Incentives Act (a) what procedures were followed to ensure that the decision to give assistance complemented the overall fishing sector strategy and objectives (b) was consideration given, prior to the awarding of assistance, to the potentially negative effects on processing plants already in operation and, if so (i) what negative effects were foreseen (ii) what were the advantages of the new plant which outweighed these negative effects (iii) have the actual negative effects been more or less serious than originally foreseen?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Blais: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Capital Punishment

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURES RESPECTING PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER AND OTHER SERIOUS OFFENCES

The House resumed, from Thursday, May 6, consideration of the motion of Mr. Allmand that Bill C-84, to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the punishment for murder and certain other serious offences, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to participate in this debate on Bill C-84 and make my position known loudly and clearly. When this matter came before parliament in the past, I had opportunity their of speaking. I had the opportunity to speak on May 22, July 23, and again on an amendment on October 18, 1973: and let me state categorically that I have had no reason to change my stand.

I listened with interest to the remarks of the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) who opened this debate. He stated, and rightly so, that society is outraged and is demanding capital punishment. He then went on to quote from many experts supporting abolition. However, those on the other side of this subject can quote from just as many experts supporting their case. I think we are all well aware that the Canadian public is concerned about crime and wants peace and security. Furthermore, it feels that a longer term of imprisonment will not deter would-be killers.

Many polls have been taken. The most recent which I received was dated May 3; it was from the metropolitan Toronto police association. I believe all hon. members received it. It showed that 68,745 responses to their questionnaire were sent in, showing 87.6 per cent of the people in favour of capital punishment. This government seems willing to fly in the face of public opinion and use every means within its power to pilot this bill through.

There is no question that the government will be ably assisted by the press gallery and the media, those great moulders of public opinion. Let me point out that this is one particular area in which the media has not been successful. When reporting on this bill, the news commentators on the national news are depicted with the sinister noose on the screen behind them. It might be an idea, for a change, for some of them to put the noose around their own necks. Again, this morning, on the "Canada A.M." program I believe it was Dennis MacIntosh who mentioned that this matter would be discussed in the House today—and the sinister noose was in the background. Let there be a change in reporting, and let us see on the television screen some of the murder victims. I can assure the House that this would portray a pretty gruesome scene. I hope hon. members will give serious consideration to victims, rather than murderers, when they cast their vote and stand up to be counted.

I hope, also, that hon. members will give some thought to the feelings of the great majority of Canadians. The Solicitor General has pointed out that he hopes to convince the 60 or so new members of parliament that they should vote