

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have been ready to release that report for some time. The only reason it has not been released is that the judge recommended we should not release it while the three inmates who took hostages in the last incident were under trial, that it would in some way be in contempt of court or against the traditions of a fair trial. It is for that reason we have not released the report. I have been ready to release it. I may point out that these three, Lucas, Bruce and Wilson, are still under trial for the last incident and I do not know whether it would be appropriate to release that report while they are under trial.

Mr. Reynolds: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that my party released the blueprints for the new section of the pen in this House sometime ago—there was a leak in those areas—and in view of the fact that we have received information from some of the security people inside the pen which involves this group, that is information which was not put before the Farris inquiry, which included information that the director and classification people had been told beforehand that it would happen, does the Solicitor General believe that the House and the country would be better off if we overruled the request of the judge and released that inquiry report immediately so that the Canadian people can know what has happened?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I think the information in the report will be of interest to the members of the House and to the public in general, but I do not see how it will resolve the hostage incident at the B.C. pen at the present time. My first concern is to resolve that incident and then make this information public later.

* * *

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

SUGGESTED CHANGE IN APPEAL PROCEDURE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Yesterday during the question period the Prime Minister said that no worker in Canada could claim there has been an injustice operated against him if he had received a cut-back in pay as a result of the administrator's decision on a matter that had been referred to him. Has the Prime Minister given further thought to that answer and, in particular, would he agree that a worker in such circumstances does have his financial interest profoundly affected, and does so within the law which gives him no right to appeal. If he is in agreement with that I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he would be prepared to consider changes in the law so that there would be a right to appeal along the lines the Minister of Labour indicated in the debate yesterday were being contemplated.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I may respond on behalf of the Prime Minister, we will indeed be giving early consideration to such amendments to be brought before the House.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister to be a little more specific. Could he tell us if the kind of

[Mr. Reynolds.]

amendment the government is contemplating would be such as to guarantee the right of appeal to either the employee or employer in terms of the decision reached by the Anti-Inflation Board prior to that being considered by the administrator.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Not specifically, Mr. Speaker. As has been set out a number of times we do not see the decision of the Anti-Inflation Board to be of the nature of a legally binding decision. We would anticipate, as I said before, that the chairman in the case where the parties have indicated they would not accept the board's judgment would be proposing to make an early reference to the administrator to include in a legal order the provisions with regard to the particular settlement or price. The question which seems to be raised most effectively in this context is whether there might be any further appeal from the administrator to the appeal tribunal and thereafter eventually to the courts. It is that right of appeal which parties might enjoy which should be considered.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, since the law which now exists makes it virtually impossible for the employee to have an appeal of any matter being raised before the administrator or after would the minister be more specific now in terms of the precise nature, not the detail, of the change in the legislation he has in mind and also inform the House when the government plans to bring it forward.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to debate with the hon. gentleman, but as I have indicated some days ago in the case where either party involved in, for example, a compensation settlement, indicated it was not satisfied with the board's decision the board would refer it to the administrator. So perhaps there is not a meeting of minds between us. So far as we see it the difficulty is from the point of the order on whether the party's ability to establish the right of appeal is broad enough in the act as presently drafted.

* * *

● (1450)

[Translation.]

HEALTH

INQUIRY AS TO REGULATIONS CONTROLLING SALE AND IMPORTATION OF BLOOD

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

On February 3 last, on *Le 60*, a television program, it was reported that blood collected by the Red Cross was being sold on a commercial basis by a Toronto firm; photos and pictures were shown. Can the minister tell the House whether his department looked into the matter and, if so, with what results?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, an inquiry was held according to normal procedures. As a result of that investigation, rules were edicted controlling the exports of certain blood products. Those rules came into effect at the end of last year. At