

What plans does it have to tighten up on those procedures? What plans does it have to insist that the pulp mills clean up their act and to start levying fines if they do not?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the results of those studies stem from an operation which was launched last year by our department to know more about the level of dioxin and furans in effluent waters around those mills. We now have the conclusions. I will send letters to all companies across Canada next week notifying them that a new regulation will be enacted next year.

This regulation will call for the virtual elimination of all furans and dioxins throughout Canada. It will be a very tough regulation. It will oblige the companies to change the technology and process. This work will be done.

We have warned the companies last March that we were drafting those new regulations. Many companies now have begun to change the process, and we think that by next year we will have eliminated those very dangerous toxins all over Canada.

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JUSTICE

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General, the minister responsible for prisons and prison security.

Over the past number of months convicted murderer and escapee Allan Legere has terrified and horrified the people of northeast New Brunswick, the Miramichi region. What assurances can the minister give this House and all Canadians that the series of events, mistakes and misjudgments that led to the escape of this individual will not happen again.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Solicitor General I would like to advise the House that when that occurrence took place there was a full internal inquiry into the reasons for the escape. It is my understanding from the documents available to me that all or most of the suggestions in the report have been implemented in order that this will not occur again.

Oral Question

• (1200)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: To conclude question period there will be one question from the member for Kenora—Rainy River and one question for the member for Saskatoon—Dundurn.

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CANADIAN CENTRE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of the Environment. It relates to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. I do not think that the government understands the ramifications of the decision to withdraw funding for the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Canadians believe environmental issues are a number one priority today. The centre had plans to provide crucial information to Canadians on the environment. When the government decided to withdraw its funding, the centre was forced to put a stop to those plans.

My question is this: How can this government claim on the one hand to be concerned about the environment but, on the other hand, cut the funding to this centre? Would the minister explain this to the House and will he guarantee the future of the centre to Canadians who are very interested in environmental issues in this country?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, my understanding of this issue is that the government is not necessarily the only source of funding for this centre. Other alternatives can reasonably be looked at as to whether those who have a stake in the centre should also be called upon to help fund the centre. Beyond that, I will be happy to make some representations to the Minister of Labour.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, there are 2,200 public servants off the job from federal vessels. My question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board. The issue of wage parity is one which any thinking person can certainly support. People who face daily risk to save lives should be decently paid regardless of which coast of the country they live on, whether they live near the Great Lakes or work on the Great Lakes or on the St. Lawrence. These public