

velopment. It is related to the recent report that four officials from the district office in Alberta involved in the Indian economic development program have been suspended for improper conduct in the mismanagement of departmental funds. I would like to ask the minister if he will confirm the fact that the RCMP are investigating the allegations. Would he also indicate who requested the investigation, and the date it commenced?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is accurate. The investigation was requested yesterday by my officials. It was based on an internal study of financial procedures which flowed from the problems we had a month or so ago when I appointed a new acting director to try to straighten out these things. I think that responds to the question asked.

Mr. Holmes: Mr. Speaker, one final question. In view of the fact that these concerns were raised by members on this side of the House almost nine months ago, including during debate on an allocated day June 22, 1977, would the minister indicate if the departmental review has been completed? Would he also indicate whether he will refer the results of that review to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development who have a very particular interest in this matter?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem in referring the matter to the standing committee. In fact, I am rather looking forward to discussing this general problem with the standing committee when the estimates are before it. If there is a review which has a finite end and a report emerges from it, I will be pleased to bring the report with me when I appear before the standing committee. I think in this case it stemmed largely from my concern about charges that were being made, and I instructed my officials to look at the financial control procedures to see if any were not acceptable, were not correct or were being abused, and to clear them up. It may, in fact predate that, but my impression is that the recent inquiry stemmed from those instructions.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PENITENTIARIES—EXISTENCE OF PRISONERS' REVOLUTIONARY ARMY—NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General, who is by now, I am sure, aware of the message received by the *Toronto Globe and Mail* from a caller identifying himself as a representative of the prisoners' revolutionary army, claiming responsibility for the tragic death of warden Michel Roy. They threatened further executions if the report of the subcommittee was not made public. It was, of course, made public some nine months ago.

● (1452)

Is the minister able to determine, from information received from his officials, the existence of such a group and, if such a

group exists, what is the opinion of his advisers as to the serious nature of its activities?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, from the reports I have received to date, no link can be established between that one telephone call and any of the events in Montreal. I hope there is no such link. Further, I hope we do not play up that telephone call any more than it absolutely deserves. I will deal with it very seriously, but not with any exaggerated seriousness.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Solicitor General for that answer. I want to ask a supplementary, because some two weeks ago the Quebec human rights league warned of possible very serious trouble at Archambault. This was followed up last Monday in a letter that appeared in *Le Journal de Montréal* from Paul Rose, a member of the prisoners' committee, warning of some trouble.

What steps were taken as a result of those warnings, in terms of extraordinary precautions to safeguard correctional officers, and what steps are now being taken as a result of that terrible tragedy, the assassination, to protect correctional officers not just on duty but elsewhere?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is, of course, aware of this because of his very intimate co-operation with my predecessor, in terms of the implementation of the recommendation of the subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. He is also aware that the subcommittee directed its attention to the Archambault situation, which left some serious doubts as to the way it was being operated. He is also well aware that the Rose letter could well be attributed to some of the tightening up in the operation that took place as a result of the subcommittee's recommendation.

We are aware of some dissatisfaction among certain elements of the inmate population. We are taking very serious additional measures in order to protect penitentiary personnel both at the work site and in the general area of their residences.

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ESTIMATES

DATE OF TABLING

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board. Since many committees of this House are standing by for the usual tabling of the main estimates, is the President of the Treasury Board in a position to tell us when they will be tabled?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker I plan to table them within the next two weeks, probably about February 22.