

Oral Questions

the security of law abiding citizens. I repeat, I have made that point a few times. It is very basic to the government's approach to this whole problem.

GOVERNMENT VIEW OF EFFECT OF DELAY IN INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister which is along the same lines. I have read his remarks in the national press and have listened to his answers today. Am I to understand that capital murder sentences will be postponed *sine die* until a new abolition bill is introduced in the House? When will that bill be brought forward? The publication indicated it was anticipated about 1977. Whatever position one might take on this subject, does the Prime Minister not think that is probably the most inhumane position one could take at this time, since there are eight people who have been convicted of capital murder?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, it would be inhumane. However, it is not the government's intention to proceed in that way.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I would like a clear answer. Is it the Prime Minister's answer that, with the increase in crime as set out by the Chief Justice and himself over the weekend, the government proposes a postponement, not a commutation, of all capital murder sentences, leaving the whole matter in a vacuum and legal inhumanity?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the government's intention. I remind the hon. member that what was being asked was a specific question about the postponement of the execution of one man, Mr. Vaillancourt. I was not asked a general question, nor did I indicate that legislation would take that into account in the determination of its date.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RESPECTING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps the Prime Minister could indicate to the House what the intentions of the government are with regard to legislation. Is it, for example, the intention to introduce legislation this fall? Could the Prime Minister be a little more precise as to what the government's intentions are?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I expect the Solicitor General will be making an announcement on these subjects in the fairly near future.

IMMIGRATION

REASON FOR DETENTION AND INTERROGATION OF DR. FAYEZ SAYEGH, AN ARABIAN DIPLOMAT

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. It concerns the detention and interrogation [Mr. Trudeau.]

at Toronto Airport of a most distinguished Arab scholar and statesman, Dr. Fayez Sayegh, who came to Canada last Sunday as guest of honour of the Canadian Arab Federation of which many Canadian citizens are members. Considering that this gentleman, as well as carrying his UN documents, was travelling on a diplomatic passport from the Government of Kuwait, will the minister investigate this regrettable discourtesy to a respected personage and a friendly state?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The facts, as stated, with regard to the inquiry in Toronto are generally correct. The gentleman in question admitted to membership in the Palestinian Liberal—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Liberal?

Mr. Andras: —Palestinian Liberation Organization. This, under Canadian law, makes him a member of a prohibited class. Consequently, he was told that he was a member of a prohibited class, but under the Nicholson doctrine which was stated in this House some years ago with regard to temporary entry, he was given a minister's permit for the express purpose of his visit to Toronto and for a limited time only.

Mr. Macquarrie: Is the minister indicating that all members of the PLO, whether they be priests, clergymen, pacifists, or what, are, in the view of the government, not admissible to this country?

Mr. Andras: The advice given by the Department of Justice is that the PLO is an organization, the members of which are prohibited entry except upon special permit.

GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION MEMBERS ATTENDING CONFERENCE IN TORONTO

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, that is a most interesting answer. What does the hon. gentleman intend to do about the United Nations Congress on Crime which is to take place in Toronto in September and at which the PLO has the status of an official observer?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The action I described in response to the question by the hon. member for Hillsborough set out the policy in existence at present. That policy is being examined at this moment.

REASON FOR ALLOWING ENTRY OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL DANG VAN QUANG FROM VIET NAM

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the same minister, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that a United States State Department official has been quoted as saying that Lieutenant-General Dang Van Quang, presently residing in a luxurious home in Montreal, has always been No. 1 on the list of venal personalities who must be gotten rid of if Viet Nam were to be saved, and in view of the fact that another high-ranking United States official stated that Quang was perhaps the epitome of everything that was