

Inquiries of the Ministry

tion, that he had been contacted by a person in relation to a new trial for Geoffroy, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Criminal Code. In what manner was the minister contacted? Was it by telephone or by letter? Also, is he now prepared to divulge to the House the name of that person, the contents of that conversation and what took place?

Mr. Douglas A. Hogarth (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

[Translation]

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY—SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND MR. RICHER

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice.

Considering that Mr. Albert-Paul Richer, a known investigator, stated yesterday that he could guarantee the return of Mr. Geoffroy within 24 hours if the Solicitor General assured Mr. Geoffroy that he would have a new trial, would the Minister of Justice comment on this statement or assure the House that he will get in touch with its author to discuss it with him?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I can only say that, although I have seen these reports on the matter, I have no personal knowledge of them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Sainte-Marie on a last supplementary on this subject, because we shall soon be running short of time.

[Translation]

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY—INQUIRY AS TO PRESENT WHEREABOUTS

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Pursuant to Mr. Richer's statement that he could locate Mr. Geoffroy within 48 hours, could the minister tell us if he now knows where Mr. Geoffroy is and under what name did he leave Canada?

• (1520)

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with regard to questions directed to the Solicitor General and what people may have said to him, I think these questions should properly be directed to him. I have no personal knowledge and neither has the Minister of Justice. The Solicitor General will be in the House and he has told me he will be very happy to answer these questions.

With regard to the second question about the passport, I should inform the House that at ten o'clock today charges were laid against Madame Geoffroy née Parent. Four charges were laid: false declaration in order to obtain a passport, possession of a false passport, counterfeiting, and the use of counterfeit documents. These charges were

[Mr. Woolliams.]

laid at ten o'clock this morning before Mr. Justice Emorand.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I again suggest to hon. members that for the moment we go on to the next subject. The hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

Mr. Woolliams: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We have now had some answers. Ministers come and go as if they were playing a game of musical chairs. If we do not ask the questions today we will not have the ministers here tomorrow. As far as I am concerned, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has made an important statement. We would like to know if these people are under arrest, what they are doing and so on.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Woolliams: I think we are entitled to an answer.

Mr. Speaker: The point made by the hon. member for Calgary North may be well taken. Until we return to this question, I thought we might give other hon. members an opportunity to ask questions. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Fraser Valley West and return to this matter in a moment.

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Can we not regard the statement made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs as a statement on motions and give hon. members an opportunity to respond to it?

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PUBLIC SERVICE

OPERATIONAL GROUP—USE OF REGIONAL RATHER THAN NATIONAL PAY SCALES IN BARGAINING—POSSIBLE CONFLICT WITH DREE OPERATIONS

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): I wish to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. During the negotiations between Treasury Board and the occupational groups in the operational category of the Public Service, has Treasury Board been bargaining for the acceptance by the operational category of regional rather than national pay scales?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): The answer to that, Mr. Speaker, is in the affirmative. It has been the policy of successive governments to move from a scheme of national scales of wage rates to ones which are more appropriate and more commensurate with local operating conditions.

Mr. Rose: Since the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is engaged in spending millions of public dollars in an effort to reduce regional disparity, is the Treasury Board's posture on regional pay rates not entirely contradictory to that of DREE?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that this is argument and to that extent the question is not in order.