

Oral Questions

similar to the deal made in respect of the Jericho lands in British Columbia?

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PENITENTIARIES

COLLINS BAY—FAILURE OF DOUGLAS BOOTH TO RETURN FOLLOWING TEMPORARY ABSENCE PASS—PAROLE SYSTEM

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General which arises from the recent escape of a prisoner who was convicted of murder and given a sentence of life imprisonment in accordance with the law. I think the Solicitor General will know the answer as I spoke to him about the matter yesterday. Has that person been recaptured or is he still at large at the present time?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to Mr. Douglas Joseph Booth who was in the Collins Bay minimum security institution, I can say that he is still at large.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: He was out on a temporary absence pass and failed to return on February 23, 1974.

An hon. Member: He is probably in the gallery.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: This man had been given 16 previous temporary absence passes which had all been observed with the exception of one when he returned late, but voluntarily. He has been in minimum security since 1971, and he has been in prison now for eight years.

Mr. Woolliams: In light of the fact that this is of concern to all Canadians living in urban centres, is the minister now prepared to adopt a system whereby the Parole Board would have jurisdiction in respect of the release of people who have been charged and convicted of murder and given life imprisonment under the new amendments to the code in order to avoid this type of mistake and mistakes like the Head case?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, we have already taken the decision to have all long-term absences, that is, more than three days, handled by the Parole Board, and there are no more back-to-back passes. We have already amended the law so that no person who has been convicted of murder can be considered for day or temporary parole until he has served seven years. This man had been in prison for eight years and had a good record in prison.

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TRADE

SUGGESTED CURTAILMENT OF EXPORT OF CERTAIN BUILDING MATERIALS TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC SUPPLY

Mr. H. T. Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and

[Mr. Reynolds.]

Commerce. In view of serious shortages of certain essential building materials, is the minister considering measures to curtail the export of these materials in order to improve the supply position on the domestic market?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that there are shortages among some important building materials. Some of these have been caused by strikes or transportation problems which are temporary—

An hon. Member: And by the weather.

Mr. Gillespie:—and some as a result of a lack of plant capacity. I am also informed that a number of important plant expansions are under way or projected at the present time which will increase supplies. In view of the fact that the lumber market has been easing recently I do not propose to take any action at the present time.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—TYPE OF PUBLIC GROUND TRANSPORTATION TO BE PROVIDED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, I shall ask my question to the Minister of Public Works.

Would the hon. minister inform this House—

Mr. Speaker: Gentlemen, order please. I recognize the hon. member for Joliette.

Mr. La Salle: I thank you, Mr. Speaker; you are understanding as usual.

Would the hon. Minister of Public Works inform this House if, at the opening of Mirabel airport, the bus service will be the only public ground transportation system provided to international passengers between Montreal, Dorval and Mirabel airport?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, if I understood correctly, this question should be asked to my colleague, the Minister of Transport who has jurisdiction over Mirabel airport.

Mr. La Salle: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I had precisely pointed out, Mr. Speaker, that in the absence of the Minister of Transport, I thought that the Minister of Public Works was familiar with the matter. So I shall ask my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the hon. Minister of Transport, my good friend from St. Boniface.

Is the Parliamentary Secretary able to answer the question I asked before to the hon. Minister of Public Works?

[English]

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, while the minister is not in the House, I can say that he is in his office at the present time.

Some hon. Members: Shame!