

Oral Questions

these documents would be tabled in the House so that representatives from all parties could look at this very important information in preparation for reaching serious judgments on the matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot make that commitment on behalf of the minister without knowing what the documents contain. They may be of such nature that he would not be able to table them without the authorization of the authors, but I will certainly convey to the minister the representations of the Leader of the New Democratic Party. I am sure in whatever event, the minister will want to inform the House very thoroughly of the reasons for whatever decision he recommends to his colleagues.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO COMBAT CRIME WAVE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Earlier this week I drew to the attention of the Minister of Justice the fact that the number of assassinations is increasing at an alarming rate in Canada. I asked the minister whether he intended to introduce legislation to restore capital punishment or take steps to thwart this crime wave which is growing ever worse. This week, five people were murdered at Saint-Joseph-du-Lac, in Quebec, which is making people indignant.

May I ask the Prime Minister whether faced with such an alarming situation, he will introduce in the House legislation to fight this unprecedented violence wave, to protect more adequately the life of our citizens.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons has had the opportunity to take a decision on this matter, and the existing legislation is the result of a thorough study and a comprehensive consideration by the members of parliament.

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[English]

PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—ESCAPE OF INMATE—ADEQUACY OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AT HOSPITAL

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I would address my question to the Solicitor General. There has been another serious escape in British Columbia. In view of the fact that one of the four men who escaped on Tuesday from Riverview Hospital in British Columbia is a convicted murderer, can the minister advise the House why adequate security precautions were not taken at the hospital to prevent this occurrence?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into that question. As far as I know Riverview Hospital is not under our jurisdiction and I am not sure under what auspices the inmate was there.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): A supplementary question. When the minister makes his inquiry I should like to know whether he can assure the House that full co-operation will be offered—I repeat the verb so as to distinguish between the initiative and the responsive nature of the verb—if full co-operation will be offered to local authorities so that these men can be apprehended to protect the general public?

Mr. Allmand: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

NORRIS COMMISSION—DATE OF ORDER IN COUNCIL RESTRICTING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS IN ARCHIVES

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour about the material which may be hidden from public gaze in the National Archives on instructions of the Department of Labour. I wonder if the minister would inform the House or inform me if the order in council he referred to yesterday which restricts public gaze on this material was actually formulated in 1973 and is not a long standing rule of law but formulated only in 1973, about the same time that this material actually was sent to the National Archives?

● (1550)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I can check into the precise date for the hon. member. I am advised, and it is my recollection, that the rule devised in 1973 was designed to loosen rather than restrict access to records of this kind.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST OF MEMBER FOR HAMILTON WEST TO SEE REPORT OF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF LABOUR

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I am still trying to determine whether it is possible for me to have possession of the tape in which the Minister of Labour is alleged to have had a discussion with one Roman Gralewicz. In light of reports that I am mentioned in the tape or reports by way of a racial slur, can the Minister of Labour advise me whether he also now adopts that view?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has known me for some considerable time and knows otherwise. As far as the tapes are concerned, as the hon. member is fully aware, these are in the possession of the police. They have them. They are restricted. They are using them for the purpose of their investigation.

Mr. Alexander: I do not know whether the minister understood my question. Perhaps I was not too clear. As I understand it, the reports indicate that the tapes refer to "the black bastard in Hamilton". All I am trying to find out from the minister is whether in fact the reports indicate that the person referred to is the member for Hamil-