

Oral Questions

tiaries in Fraser Valley East. I wonder if he could now answer the question.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I did ask for information on that question. I was told that despite some recent escapes, the total escape rate now in British Columbia from penitentiaries is down over the last few previous years. We are taking further steps to reduce it. Despite some escapes, the rate of escapes is down considerably over the last few years.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could indicate in respect of the instances to which I alluded if those men have been recaptured yet?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have detailed statistics of the escapes from the penitentiaries in British Columbia, the recaptures and so on, but I do not know whether I should give this information during the question period. I would be pleased to send the information to the hon. member.

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FINANCE**POSSIBILITY BORROWING POWER EXCEEDED—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN VIEW OF DECISION ON BILL C-79**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister advise the House whether the government has exceeded its borrowing power under the limit placed on it under the Financial Administration Act and by how much. If so, what does the government propose to do in view of the House decision in respect of Bill C-79 of the other night?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would have to confirm whether there is an actual excess at the moment, taking into account the authority which exists for refunding. With regard to our intentions, we would hope to introduce a bill for early adoption which would in effect enable the House to enact the provisions which were struck out the other evening.

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HEALTH**TROPICAL DISEASES—NEW QUARANTINE PROVISIONS—TRANSPORTING OF INFECTED PERSONS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In the introduction of the new measures concerning quarantine for lassa fever, will they contain a provision for a period of 20 days, which is the incubation period, and will there be a sterile chamber provided and developed for transportation of an infected person.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member an answer concerning the number of days of quarantine. I will inquire. However, I can tell him that the isolation

[Mr. Patterson.]

facilities group to which I referred yesterday which is studying this whole question is actively studying the question of the necessity and feasibility of developing separate and new isolation facilities for treatment of diseases such as lassa fever. I am quite confident they will likely come up with a positive recommendation in this respect.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—SUGGESTION BOARD MONITOR FOOD PRICES BEFORE AND AFTER OCTOBER 13 AND REPORT FINDINGS**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The latest consumer price index figures show that in the month of November prices rose .9 per cent on the whole, with food costs rising .6 per cent. In view of the Bank of Montreal's recent newsletter stating that some companies increased consumer prices before October 13 and that the November consumer price index might also reflect moves by companies to beat the controls, would the minister or his government now ask the chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board to request all food distribution chains to submit to the board their price lists for the two weeks prior to and following October 13 to ascertain the accuracy of the charges in the bank's newsletter, and would the minister also instruct the Anti-Inflation Board to make this information available to the public.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated in response to a question by the hon. member for Edmonton West last week, I have drawn to the attention of the Anti-Inflation Board the allegations made in the document referred to by the hon. gentleman. I will draw to the attention of the board the hon. member's suggestion for further dealing with the question.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR ACTION IN AREAS OF ENERGY, FOOD AND HOUSING

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of a speech last night by Jean-Luc Pepin, chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, to the National Press Club in which on page two of the written text of the speech he said that the government needs a positive program to supplement the present anti-inflation program and quoted the third element of such a program as being structural policies to deal with the special problems of energy, food and housing, exactly the policy my party has been calling for, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether his government intends to take steps to implement such structural policies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, without being unkind I would suggest that the hon. member pay the same diligence to reading the white paper of early October that he has paid to the comments of Mr. Pepin. He would find that we, much before Pepin and much before his own party, had singled out three areas for