

assure the hon. member that the present location will be given every consideration in this decision which is a fair distance in the future.

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AGRICULTURE

FARM MACHINERY PRICES—INQUIRY AS TO BARBER COMMISSION FINAL REPORT AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that farm machinery prices are continuing to rise in Canada, can the minister now say when he expects a final report from the Barber commission on the prices of farm machinery, and when he expects to bring in legislation?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barber has completed his work and I expect the report will be available shortly. So far as legislation to follow it is concerned, I think if any legislation is required within the area of federal jurisdiction we will want to look at the report very carefully.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INQUIRY AS TO LANGUAGE APTITUDE TEST AFFECTING PROMOTION

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek asked me whether a directive had gone out to members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stating that they must take an aptitude test, be bilingual and willing to serve in a Francophone environment.

There has been no such directive. In practice, tasks are assigned to constables and officers of the RCMP as required and when an Anglophone has to serve in a Francophone environment, or vice versa, we offer him every facility for becoming bilingual.

It must also be said that in the RCMP bilingualism is a factor of efficiency, and that we consider it to be an advantage when a member is able to at least understand or speak a third language, as this can be helpful in the kind of work to be carried out.

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[English]

FISHERIES

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL NOT BE DOWNGRADED

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries. In the

Criminal Code

interests of the fishermen of British Columbia, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, will he give an assurance to the House that the Department of Fisheries will not be downgraded to the point where we will not have a full-fledged Minister of Fisheries in the House of Commons after Bill C-207 becomes law?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest the hon. member is anticipating an order of the day. He is attempting to bring into the question period a debate which is taking place currently in the Committee of the Whole, and which has taken place in the House on second reading of the bill. I assume if the bill passes the committee stage and returns to the House for third reading, it will be debated again. In those circumstances, I do not think the question is in order.

Mr. Lundrigan: I will rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker, and ask the Prime Minister if he will be present in the House in the future when his Bill C-202 is being debated?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO ARREST AND BAIL

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice) moved that Bill C-218, to amend the provisions of the Criminal Code relating to the release from custody of accused persons before trial or pending appeal, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: This bill presents to the House proposals for bringing about fundamental changes in the law in respect of powers of arrest, pre-trial detention and bail. Hon. members may recall a statement I made to this House during the debate on the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act on November 4, 1970, when I said some of the measures we had to adopt under that Act for a short term were and are philosophically abhorrent to us.

I said that as soon as we could, I intended to turn once again along the road of law reform and continuing enhancement and protection of civil liberties. I am pleased to be able to fulfil that undertaking to the House today, as I believe I did when I introduced, a week or so ago, the statutory instruments bill which has now received approval of this House on second reading and been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

The statute law regarding bail has historical origins that date back to the English Bill of Rights of 1689 which states: That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor