

from your position as Speaker. I hope I have not caused you too many problems, and I do want to thank you for your impartiality and your consideration of the office that I have had to fulfil.

I want to thank the Prime Minister for his friendship, and particularly for his comments here this afternoon. I might have said, I suppose, that he will not have Bob Stanfield's football to kick around any more.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** In spite of the Prime Minister's sense of loss, I hope it will be of some consolation to him to see that I am unfolding as I should.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I want to thank the leader of the NDP (Mr. Broadbent), too, for his friendship and for his very generous comments. I recall that when he was thinking hard about whether or not he should seek his present responsibilities he had some real problems in reconciling what he foresaw as the obligations of the office and the obligations of leadership and his wish to have some time to listen to some Bach. I just want to say to him, sir, through you, that anytime he is in my vicinity I hope he will drop in so I can go over a few records with him.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

[Translation]

**Mr. Stanfield:** I would also like to thank the Leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada (Mr. Caouette) for his very kind words and for his friendship over all those years.

[English]

I wish to say simply about the leader of the Cr ditistes that he has always struck me as the sort of man from whom I would buy a used car.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I wish to end on a comment of challenge and a little uplift to all of this. I am, of course, continuing in the House as the member for Halifax, and I want to serve notice on the right hon. Prime Minister and members of the government that as a backbencher I will be even more of a tiger than I have been as leader.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I had a question prepared today that would bring the government down, sir, but I have decided that in the circumstances I will defer it until next week.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

● (1440)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### PENITENTIARIES

#### BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON SEIZING OF HOSTAGES

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I regret I must disturb the convivial atmosphere of the House. I have a question for the Solicitor General. This morning at eight o'clock Mr. Bruce and Mr. Lucas, two of the prisoners who held 15 hostages last June in the New Westminster penitentiary, again seized hostages in the penthouse. Could the Solicitor General tell the House how many hostages were seized, whether they are safe at this moment and what the demands are at the present time.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, this morning at 8.20 a.m. Pacific time and 11.20 our time, three inmates from the B.C. pen, namely Mr. Lucas, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Lowe took three correctional officers hostage in the new segregation area of the B.C. pen. No information is yet available as to how the hostages were taken. So far the only demands are for an outside doctor, some drugs and a radio. I wish to point out to the house that the segregation area and the segregation conditions at the B.C. pen were changed recently following a judgment of the federal court that the former segregation area in the building was considered cruel and unusual punishment under the Bill of Rights. After that judgment we changed the segregation area to the one where the hostages were taken this morning. I have been in touch with the penitentiary officials who assure me that everything is being done to resolve the situation.

**Mr. Friesen:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Solicitor General whether there were any weapons of any type involved when these hostages were seized and whether it happened during the time when the prisoners were being transferred or what were the circumstances?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, to the best of our knowledge the inmates have two knives. It appears these knives were kitchen knives which they sharpened in some way or other in their cells. These inmates were in segregation which means they were in a place in the penitentiary where they were not loose but it appears they were outside their cells in the corridor, which is also locked, taking exercise when the hostages were taken, but it is difficult to get all the details because the only witnesses to the event were the men who were taken hostage.

#### REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FARRIS REPORT

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Would the Solicitor General consider releasing the Farris inquiry report to this House so that we can see the reasons the judge found for the previous taking of hostages? Perhaps that would lead us to some conclusions concerning why this hostage-taking took place.