

applied and the decision being taken. I also pointed out that tying them to a particular incident is rather unfortunate, in view of the fact that even the period of construction would have taken another year or a year and a half before there would have been grade separation at this point.

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INDUSTRY

EFFECT OF LOCKHEED ORION CONTRACT ON REGIONAL COMPANIES IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and I welcome him back to the House. It has been a week or ten days since I put a question to him with respect to the industrial benefit arising out of the LRPA program. Is the minister now in a position to indicate what protection will be built into the program with respect to regional companies such as IMP?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his welcome. In so far as IMP is concerned, which I believe is the company for which the hon. member has the primary concern at the moment, I will be glad to provide him with figures as to how much they will participate in the actual LRPA program. There has not yet been a determination of repair and overhaul work following the introduction of the LRPA. I would be glad to sit with the hon. member and discuss with him what possibility there may be in that connection for maritime companies, for example.

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary question. I wonder if the minister could indicate to the House whether he would agree—and indeed the Prime Minister left some impression in this regard the other day—that there is not much point in the transfer of some 400 jobs from one part of Canada to another; at the same time, if he does agree, would he not give some assurance that some input into the technological and engineering development of this new LRPA should go to IMP so that those 400 jobs in the Atlantic area could be protected?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I have no quarrel with the proposition the hon. gentleman puts forward. He should recognize, however, that in changing from the particular aircraft on which IMP has been working to the new one, we must work out some formula for repair and overhaul. As I said, I will be glad to do that in detail in the period we have, which is perhaps three or four years, between now and the point where the new aircraft comes into operation.

Mr. Forrestall: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The very thing we are all afraid of has just come out now in the minister's answer. I would draw the minister's attention to the fact that unless this question of access to the industrial benefit of this program does include the technological and engineering involvement by companies such as IMP—and the minister is correct that it is not the only one—they will not be able to participate later on in the program. It is in the next two weeks that such a decision has to be made. I

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wonder if the minister might not look closer at that some time this week.

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I fear there has been some misunderstanding in terms of the question the hon. member asked. I thought he was primarily interested in whether a percentage of the repair and overhaul that presently exist could be maintained and that is what I said we had a period of time to examine. If we are talking about what part of the construction program can be transferred or assigned to IMP at the moment, of course that has to be decided shortly. I think there has been an assessment already of what the program may mean in terms of that particular company but I will be glad to talk it over with the hon. member.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Minister of Communications. I take this opportunity to congratulate her on her new appointment.

Nothing having transpired since October 13 in the field of cablevision, could the minister tell the House when she will make a statement to the House about the discussions between Ottawa and Quebec in order to refresh hon. members' memory and inform them of the state of negotiations on that matter?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): I thank the hon. member for his good wishes. There is no negotiation going on between the province of Quebec and the federal government on the question of cablevision in the region of Matane and Rimouski at the present time. However, an appeal is now before the courts and that is why it is difficult for me to comment on that question right now.

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[English]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF HIGH COST OF FOOD IN THE NORTH AND TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY ON SOME ITEMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and concerns the report of the Food Prices Review Board on food prices in northern Canada which has just been released. At the urging of the Consumer Association of Canada and of the Yukon that an independent investigation be conducted with respect to establishing the reasons for the high cost of food generally in the north and since that appears to be a recommendation of the Food Prices Review Board, will the minister exercise the authority which he undoubtedly has and cause such an investigation to be made which appears to be in keeping with this recommendation?