

INDUSTRY

ROLLS-ROYCE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES—CANADIAN
CONTRACTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is he now able to give the information I requested the other day as to the total amount of contracts held by Canadian firms under the Rolls-Royce jet engine arrangements, the total amount of employment that will be lost if these contracts should fall through, and whether the government of Canada has any measures in mind to meet this situation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have some figures here. Only one company, Orenda Engines Ltd., holds contracts directly related to the Rolls-Royce RB-211 engine project. Orenda has three contracts for the production of gas turbine components for a value of \$5.65 million, and I understand this occupies about 60 people.

The real significance to Canadian industry in the Rolls-Royce situation has to be measured in terms of the Lockheed project, that is, the L-1011 trijet aircraft. Six main Canadian companies have been engaged in subcontract work for this project and the whole thing, at its present value, is worth about \$60 million. The Canadian companies participating in the program produce auxiliary power units, structural components, simulators and other equipment. At this time these subcontracts could provide jobs for about 675 people.

The government is following carefully the developments in this matter and is maintaining close liaison with the companies involved. Although the L-1011 program is threatened, there is no evidence at this point that it has been cancelled. The future of the program must await the decisions of Lockheed, Rolls-Royce and their governments.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PLANS FOR PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the severe unemployment problem which is reaching crisis proportions in Cape Breton, is the minister in a position to reply to a question I posed the other day to the Prime Minister in the absence of the minister? It is further to the continuous representations I have been making for some months on this same subject. Will the minister make a statement now indicating the short and long-term plans and programs that the Cape Breton Development Corporation has for the future of the island, with particular reference to employment and industrial activity? In other words, can the minister indicate what is the blueprint for the future of Cape Breton so far as Devco is concerned?

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have learned that Devco is in the process of preparing short as well as long-term programs for the industrial development of Cape Breton Island. As soon as I have received them, I shall make a statement to the House.

[English]

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, is it correct that at the moment a multimillion dollar program has been placed before the government of Canada by officials of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, and could he indicate when he would be in a position to elaborate further to the House and give encouragement to the people of Cape Breton, although I realize this will not put bread on their tables immediately?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I know that work is being done on specific projects, but until now nothing has been left on my desk.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN ACTION BROUGHT BY TEACHERS
RESPECTING BRITISH COLUMBIA ORDER IN
COUNCIL

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Does the federal government plan to intervene in support of the action brought by five teachers against the British Columbia government's order in council issued on October 22, 1970?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, that matter is before the courts on a provincial order in council. We do not plan to intervene.

Mrs. MacInnis: Will the federal government challenge the constitutionality of the order in council?

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ACCELERATION OF PROGRAMS IN REGIONALLY DISADVANTAGED
AREAS TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It is based on the special statutory responsibilities he has with regard to creating jobs. What steps is the minister prepared to take to accelerate the programs under his department in the regionally disadvantaged areas, especially the Atlantic provinces, where unemployment is so high and where the programs seem to be lagging because of bureaucratic red tape?