

Oral Questions

he indicates that it is going to stay in Edmonton. Could he be more specific: Is he or is he not going to move the parachute packing facility, what is known as the parachute maintenance depot, out of Edmonton?

Mr. Danson: When the airborne school is moved from Edmonton, as part of the phasing operation the packing operation will have to be moved to be close to it.

Mr. McKinnon: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. This is the first indication we have had that the minister has any intention whatever of moving the airborne school. Can we now take it that it is going to be part of his future policy to move that, too, out of Edmonton?

Mr. Danson: That is a possibility, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

VETERANS AFFAIRS

JUSTIFICATION OF COST OF MOVING DEPARTMENT TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In the December issue of the *Argus-Journal*, the Public Service Alliance of Canada publication, there is a quotation from a letter received from the deputy minister of veterans affairs, Mr. Bruce Brittain. In this letter he states that the estimated total cost of moving the Department of Veterans Affairs from Ottawa to Prince Edward Island is \$20 million. Would the minister justify this expenditure at this time of supposed government restraint?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is the anticipated cost, with completion of the move in 1980.

Mr. McKenzie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can I take it from that answer that the government is definitely going to move DVA to Prince Edward Island at an estimated cost of \$20 million?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): The principle of this proposal has been approved by the government of Canada, Mr. Speaker, and as far as I am concerned the department is definitely going to move.

* * *

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PROTECT ONTARIO CHICKEN PRODUCERS FROM EFFECTS OF IMPORTS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to give the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce another opportunity to demonstrate his support for the protection of Canadian industry from cheap foreign imports. In view of the fact that imports of chicken into Canada this year are running at four times the 1974 level and that 95 per cent of the chicken being imported into this country is coming into Ontario, does the government propose

[Mr. McKinnon.]

taking any short term action to provide relief for Ontario producers from these extremely high levels of chicken imports between now and the time the final decision is made on the creation of a national chicken marketing agency? I ask this question in view of the fact that not only dollars but jobs are being lost to the United States in this respect.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, at the moment I have nothing to announce in this regard and of course, before I announce any policy in that area, I shall have to consult with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture.

[English]

FOOTWEAR—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CLOSING OF FACTORIES IN MOUNT FOREST AND MARKDALE

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a related question on the subject of import quotas. On November 30 the minister indicated to me that he was not then in a position to report to the House on the undertaking that he had made on November 9 concerning the shutdown of two Canadian shoe factories in Mount Forest and Markdale because of the level of imports from abroad. Is the minister now in a position to give that report, and, if so, what is it?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, according to my information, and concerning the hon. member's question, I think that the closures mentioned by him are due, in particular, to a reorganization in the industry, and are not specifically related to the import problems. I must say to the House that the level of imports in the footwear industry concerns me. I just received the recommendations of the Canadian committee of footwear manufacturers and I expect to be able to announce a policy in that area soon.

* * *

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

APPLICATION FOR PASSENGER SERVICE IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, in view of the nearness of year end coupled with the long period of time that we have been waiting for a decision from the CTC on the class two licence applications before them for air passenger service in Atlantic Canada, I wonder whether the Minister of Transport could give the House some indication of the status of these applications before the CTC and also the position of his department and the government with respect to any plans his department may have to work along with the