

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Hopkins:** I said it was back on the Prime Minister's desk, not the Minister's desk. I would not want him to get that promotion yet.

## NATO REQUIREMENTS

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, it is a well known fact that the Swiss Defence Department has not purchased a system made in its own country, but has opted for the Rolland Missile System which is made by a French and a German company and is used by many of our NATO allies.

Is the Minister of National Defence willing to assure all our NATO allies, without any equivocation whatsoever, that any one of these three non NATO country proposals will meet the NATO requirements for standardization of equipment, and the NATO requirements—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order, order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Order, please!

**Mr. Forrestall:** I never said a word.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then why can I hear you?

**Mr. Forrestall:** Not me.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Because he was shaking his head.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the Member's question was long enough. The Minister may want to answer the question that has been asked.

**Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the question of the Hon. Member would require quite a complex answer. In a word I can tell him that the very high standards of our NATO allies will be met. It will not be the first time that Canada's Armed Forces have led the way in new ventures, new fields and new technology. That has been quite seriously submerged in the last 12 years. However, we intend to rectify that and raise those standards in the hope that in this particular instance we will be providing a lead for our NATO allies.

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## INDUSTRY

## WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT COMPANY—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for DRIE. Tomorrow the President of White Farm Equipment will be meeting with DRIE officials, possibly for the last time before the June 14 deadline. Peat Marwick is advertising all over Canada, and I believe in the United States, to sell off the assets of White Farm Equipment. In view of that, is the Minister prepared to

come to the financial rescue of White Farm to save 600 jobs in Brantford, and possibly another 400 jobs across the country?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member certainly knows, we have been having discussions with Mr. Sinclair. We have been having discussions with others who have indicated an interest in possibly acquiring the company, or certainly the assets of White Farm. In short, we have been trying to facilitate a viable takeover of the White Farm operation to ensure that it may continue.

## AUCTION INQUIRY

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister guarantee the House that the federal Government will not sit back in the final analysis and allow White Farm Equipment to be sold off piecemeal on the auction block, but rather that it will be preserved as a viable farm implement operation?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member reads in *Hansard* the answer I gave to his first question, he will see that his supplementary question has already been answered.

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## VIA RAIL

## EXTENSION OF NEW BRUNSWICK SERVICE

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transportation. As the Minister is aware, VIA Rail has announced its intention to discontinue the dayliner service between Fredericton and Saint John, New Brunswick, on June 1 of this year. The Minister must also be aware that Saint John is hosting the Canada Summer Games, and that Fredericton is celebrating its bicentennial as the capital of the Province of New Brunswick and centre of the universe.

In view of these two important events, will the Minister consider extending the life of the dayliner, at least until September?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for his question, and also for the numerous representations he has made on behalf of his constituents and all of those who are affected by this service.

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

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have considered the representations that have been made. Accordingly, I have asked VIA to extend the service until September 15.

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