

investigating, plans to investigate, or is in consultation with the provinces in respect of the complaints about the high cost and low quality of car repairs in Canada?

Hon. Ron. Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have examined a number of aspects of that situation and I know a number of provinces have also done so. I am not aware, however, of any communication from any province with regard to this matter.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES OF CANADIAN ARSENALS, MISSISSAUGA—REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF CLOSING OF PLANT

Mr. Walter Deakon (High Park): Mr. Speaker, on January 18 last I asked a question of the Minister of Supply and Services through the Acting Prime Minister. It is reported in *Hansard* at pages 2487 and 2488. The question referred to the problem of the lay-off of employees of the Canadian Arsenals plant at Mississauga. Is the minister in a position to answer that question?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the government is considering the sale of the Canadian Arsenals plant at Long Branch. I believe the hon. member's chief concern, as revealed in his question, is the position of employees in the event of a sale. I can tell him I have been advised by officials of Canadian Arsenals that every consideration will be given to the interests of the employees in the event of a sale. I might say further that if a sale is made it will be to a commercial user who will, of course, have use for the plant's facilities, and therefore I would expect that a sale would lead not to a decrease, but to an increase in the employment opportunities in the area.

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AGRICULTURE

TREE FRUIT INDUSTRY—MEASURES TO ARREST VIRUS INFECTION

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. The minister was good enough to indicate that he would look into whether or not a plant pathologist could be obtained to deal specifically with diseases of tree fruits and in greenhouses in Ontario. Can he give us any information in this regard?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Only to reaffirm to the hon. member that we are attempting to obtain a suitable person to carry on that work. I will communicate the detail to him privately.

23786—47½

Inquiries of the Ministry

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SECURING OF TANKS STORED IN GERMANY AS REPLACEMENTS

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. As it now has been discovered that there are some 5,000 battle tanks mothballed principally in Germany, is any effort being made by the Canadian government to secure some of these tanks to replace those presently being used by our forces in Europe, which the minister said will soon be worn out?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, prior to any such effort we would have to decide whether we intend to continue to perform that role in Europe or perform one that is more consistent with the force structure in Canada.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

WAR MEASURES ACT—IDENTITY OF PERSONS COMPENSATED BY QUEBEC

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Solicitor General.

Has he been informed by the Quebec Minister of Justice of the identity of the people who have received compensation following the enforcement of the War Measures Act and of the nature of such compensation?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not at all aware of the facts, but I will be pleased to ask the Quebec Minister of Justice for information which I will pass on to the hon. member.

Mr. Asselin: I wish to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In line with his answer, could the minister inquire as he indicated and table the requested information in the House?

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will be informed in the most convenient way.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

PROGRAM FOR HIRING OF FRANCOPHONE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES—COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of the memorandum entitled "Special Recruitment of Francophones in the Public Service" which the President of the Treasury Board tabled in the House, saying that it was issued without his knowledge or consent. Since this memorandum seems to