

With respect to contracts, we are not inhibiting any contracts which were pre-existing at the time we took that course of action. The contract to which the hon. member refers with respect to the remaining nuclear material is in this category.

Beyond that, we have a signed agreement with Argentina that it will not use the nuclear material or nuclear technology that we supply, for any non-peaceful purpose. We would not want to depart from any aspect of the terms of that contract because we would not want to provide any opportunity for the other party to say that the contract was now null and void. We want to make sure that Canadian technology is only used for peaceful purposes.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM CONTRACT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Could the minister inform the House if one of the two consortia competing in the contract definition phase of the patrol frigate program is experiencing difficulties? Could he tell the House whether these difficulties may result in that consortium not being able to meet the October, 1982, deadline for submission of its proposal?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, as far as the frigate program is concerned, everything is on schedule. I have had some communication with both consortia, scan-marine and Saint John Dry Dock Ltd. I am not aware of any difficulties experienced by either in meeting the deadline that will enable us to get the frigate program going.

QUERY RESPECTING PAYMENTS TO COMPETING CONTRACTORS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of National Defence who should be interested enough in the subject to know the answer. Could the minister tell the House whether the government has withheld, or is considering withholding, any milestone payment to one of the consortia in the Canadian patrol frigate program due to its not being able to meet the progress deadlines imposed by contract?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, as of last week, when I received the monthly report on the frigate program, I am not aware of any such occurrence.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

FORESTRY

INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC WILL PARTICIPATE IN JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

Mrs. Suzanne Beauchamp-Niquet (Roberval): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In February, the minister announced that agreements had been signed with the Government of Ontario regarding certain job-creation programs in the forestry industry. Last Friday, the minister announced that similar agreements had been signed with British Columbia. Could the minister inform the House how negotiations with Quebec are progressing and whether Quebecers in the forestry industry who are interested in participating in the program will be able to do so in the near future?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I can confirm to the hon. member that we have received a proposal concerning a development and employment program in the forestry industry in Quebec which is similar to what we have undertaken in signing agreements with the provinces of British Columbia and Ontario. I can assure the hon. member that we will give it very prompt, and sympathetic consideration. I hope we will be able to make an announcement on an agreement by next week. I want to thank the hon. member and some of her colleagues for the work they put into developing this proposal.

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

APPROVAL OF SALE OF ONTARIO GENERATED ELECTRICITY TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. It concerns the National Energy Board decision, made public yesterday, to allow Ontario Hydro to go ahead with the sale of electricity to the United States. I put it to the Prime Minister that, if the government allows this to happen, it will completely destroy the credibility of all the work done by the special committee on acid rain, by the House of Commons, by the government, by the Department of External Affairs, and our steady but slowly successful attempt to get support in Washington.

I put this question to the Prime Minister because the Minister of the Environment made a statement yesterday. What is the Prime Minister prepared to do, as leader of this country, as far as that agreement or decision by the National Energy Board with respect to Ontario Hydro is concerned, when it comes to cabinet for discussion?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I will take the steps advised by the minister responsible for the environment and review the decision of the