

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McBride: In view of news reports today that the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have reached agreement on strategic arms limitation after the prolonged SALT talks, will the minister be in a position to report any agreement reached in this House at an early date?

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the report for the moment is just that, a news report. We hope the optimistic tone of the report will be confirmed by events.

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AGRICULTURE**WOOL—SUGGESTED SUBSIDY TO ENCOURAGE PRODUCTION**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and repeats a question I put some time ago that was taken notice of by his parliamentary secretary. In light of current reports from the textile trade and needle industry that because of the increased demand for woollen fabrics the cost of this commodity will increase by 20 per cent this year, will the minister consider revising his policy and provide a wool subsidy to encourage the production of wool in Canada rather than having it imported to meet this increased demand?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, a wool deficiency payment, of course, does not make any contribution to that at all, but we are very concerned about the sheep producers in Canada setting up better marketing structures so they can benefit from a very substantial and satisfactory lamb market.

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TRADE**SUGGESTED RECALL OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS LOSS OF EXPORT MARKETS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the serious decline in Canadian exports, in March to Britain, Japan, West Germany, Norway, Italy, Venezuela, Belgium, Luxembourg—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member knows that this kind of question is irregular. Hon. members cannot ask questions which attempt to convey information to the House. The question should be asked without all these details.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I listed the countries to give an indication of the very basis of my question. In view of this decline in exports, has the minister given any thought to recalling our trade commissioners presently in those countries to Ottawa in order to discuss our sagging exports of newsprint, aluminium, copper and automobiles and hopefully find ways of correcting our lost trading position?

[Mr. McBride.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1210)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will send the hon. member a copy of the speech I will make this weekend on the subject of exports. On the subject of recalling trade commissioners, may I remind my hon. friend that this was done a number of weeks ago. We brought them back from Europe and other parts of the world, and we will bring them back from the United States in September. So what he suggests has already been done.

Mr. Stanfield: But will the government produce results?

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PUBLIC SERVICE**CAPE BRETON—REPLACEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR UNILINGUAL POSITIONS BY ONE FOR BILINGUAL POSITIONS**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board who seems congenial today and quiet. It deals with an eligibility list that was set up in December, 1971, for forthcoming vacancies in the public service in Cape Breton. Since these eligibility lists are usually good for one year, as we all know, and since I have been informed that this list will be void after June 15, 1972, and positions will be filled from a previous list calling for bilingualism, would the minister be good enough to advise me what reply can be given to the many applicants who have already qualified in the last competition which required only unilingualism on the part of applicants?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular circumstances of this case. I will inquire and provide an answer to the hon. member.

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ENERGY**GENTILLY AND DOUGLAS POINT POWER PLANTS—CLOSURE AS RESULT OF SHORTAGE OF HEAVY WATER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO INCREASE SUPPLY**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of reports that the Gentilly and Douglas Point atomic energy plants will be closed down because of the shortage of heavy water, will the minister say how long these plants will be closed and what he is doing to acquire more adequate supplies of heavy water?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would confirm that this was announced some weeks ago. The Gentilly, Rolphton and also the Douglas Point plants will be successively closed down for the purpose of bringing into operation the third reactor at Pickering. I might say that it is now coming on stream and operating as well as the other two,