

October before the minister takes corrective action on safety inspections?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, just on details again, it was not three engines which had trouble; it was only two. Just to rectify these things.

With respect to representations made before the judge, I would think it would be in the spirit of asking a commission to inquire to wait until the judge decides which of these representations he considers to be valid, makes up his mind and makes recommendations accordingly. It would be unwise, obviously, to act before the recommendations of the commission of inquiry are given to the government.

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INDUSTRY

DECISION TO CLOSE AUTO PARTS FACTORY IN OSHAWA—STEPS TO PRESERVE JOBS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The minister is no doubt now aware that Houdaille Industries in Oshawa has announced its intention to close in October of this year, and that 150 more workers in Ontario are going to suffer as a result of the branch plant economy we now have. It appears that the industry is going to transfer its productive capacity to Huntington, in the United States.

Can the minister indicate, first, whether he or his ministry were informed of the intended closing? Was there any discussion, and has the minister made it known to the company that he would like it to come to Ottawa, to sit down and to discuss ways and means of keeping that plant in operation and those employees working?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, no information was brought to my attention directly. I have not had any such discussions. But it is always my interest in situations of this type to discuss the situation directly, not only with the company itself but also with the workers involved, and I will be happy to move to arrange such a meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, does the minister or the ministry have any procedure whereby in the case of the auto-related industries, given the problems which confront us in this country at the moment, the industries make known to the minister their intentions with regard to closings, lay-offs, transfers or any other changes in their productive capacity or production which will detrimentally affect the Canadian economy and Canadian workers?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, while what the hon. member is referring to is a matter which comes primarily under provincial law, we have officials in the department whose job it is to maintain close contact with the industry so that we can be up to date on developments. The strengthening of this aspect of the department is something I am carrying out right now.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

NATO CONFERENCES—INQUIRY AS TO CANADA'S PARTICIPATION

Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond): Madam Speaker, the Minister of National Defence recently attended the NATO conferences held in Bodoe in Norway, and in Brussels. Following his first participation and visits abroad as Minister of National Defence for Canada, could he indicate to the House what is the position of Canada in the collective agreements and what is the Canadian contribution to those agreements, more especially at the NATO level?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I am quite pleased to see that the member for Richmond is interested in this very important matter, considering present world conditions. We should not be naive or take peace for granted as I believe that a conflict is always possible. The NATO meeting in Brussels had been convened to assess the credibility of the deterrent capability of the NATO members. We developed our strategies in the face of Soviet strategies. As for our Bodoe meeting, I think it was a very important one. The nuclear group was gathering to assess the terms under which they might use nuclear power in case of conflict. Madam Speaker, Canada—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Lamontagne: Are hon. members opposite not interested to learn what occurred at those very important meetings? Before concluding, Madam Speaker, I would like to specify that in spite of the meeting of the nuclear group in Bodoe, Canada is not a nuclear power and does not intend to become one, but will remain a very firm supporter of NATO.

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● (1440)

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

ENGINE FAILURES ON AIR CANADA AIRCRAFT—MONITORING OF FUEL QUALITY AT AIRPORTS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport and it relates to the same serious matter raised a few moments ago by my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine.

Will the minister tell the House whether the fuelling system at Vancouver international airport is being investigated in relation to the near-disaster involving the Air Canada 747 at Toronto last weekend? Is the minister convinced that fuel turbidity—that is, water and dirt in the fuel—was not a causative factor in the failure of the three engines, and is he