

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can say that the example of salmon was given by me in my letter to Premier Kosygin. If it is possible for me to meet with him, I would certainly want to put the subject on the agenda. I should like to remind the House, however, that largely I believe thanks to Canadian initiatives and the very good work of our Department of External Affairs on this matter we did manage to put environmental questions into the treaty, particularly under basket three I think. This was one of the Canadian concerns, the need to preserve the environment and endangered species.

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AIR CANADA**ALLEGATION MINISTER REQUESTED MR. MENARD'S RESIGNATION—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION GIVING GOVERNMENT MORE CONTROL OF CROWN CORPORATIONS**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In light of press reports indicating that the minister was about to raise a question of privilege last week arising from statements made by the Chairman of Air Canada, may I ask the minister whether he is now in a position to confirm or deny the reported statement made by Mr. Pratte that it was the minister who precipitated the resignation of Mr. Menard rather than the Chairman of Air Canada, and that in effect it is the minister who is calling the shots concerning who should stay and who should go in the corporation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I had a telephone conversation with Mr. Pratte on this transaction in which I indicated he should inquire and take necessary steps to protect the reputation of Air Canada, but I never said to him that he should fire Mr. X, Y, or Z.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, would the minister perhaps take this opportunity to clarify what he feels should be his position in regard to Section 5 of the Air Canada Act which states that the affairs of Air Canada should be under the management of a nine-member board of directors, and is the minister considering legislative amendments to grant more responsibility and control over Crown corporations as part of his new transportation policy?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I know there is a new study going on about the relationship of Crown corporations to the government, generally speaking, and probably it includes Air Canada.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DATE ON WHICH ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA ORDERED TO SUSPEND WORK ON CANDU REACTOR IN ARGENTINA**

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. On July 23, in response to a question from the Leader of the

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

Opposition, the Prime Minister undertook to ascertain the date on which AECL was ordered by the government to suspend continuation of work on the CANDU installation in Argentina and to table the directives to AECL. In view of reports in the press that work on the project has been continuing since August of 1974 would the Prime Minister be in a position today to supply that information to the House?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if I might reply, the directives are from the Atomic Energy Control Board to AECL refusing the permission to export from Canada integral components for the Canadian part of the Cordoba project in Argentina. AECL has taken the position, I believe quite rightly, that it has a contract to perform and as one of the spokesmen has said it should be the government that should interfere with the contract if it is to be done for policy reasons. The government has done so by asking the Atomic Energy Control Board to withhold permission from AECL to export any component parts from Canada for the Cordoba project.

I would remind hon. members that this, of course, is a partnership with an Italian company, that the basic construction has been done by an Argentine company and the Italian company is continuing with the non-nuclear part, so the government of Canada cannot give instructions to the Italian company operating in that country. It can, however, and has, refused permission to AECL to export parts from Canada until the additional safeguard arrangements are made.

SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO ARGENTINA—POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS BY CANADA

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Could he tell the House if there has been any financial undertaking by the government of Canada with regard to this project during the period since August, 1974?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Export Development Corporation entered into a contract for the financing of the nuclear portion of the Cordoba project. The terms of that contract have not yet been met, and for that reason there have been no advances under the EDC contract. There will be no advances under that contract until the safeguard requirements posed by Canada have been met.

HELSINKI CONFERENCE—SUGGESTION PRIME MINISTER ASK FOR IMPROVED SYSTEM FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF FISHING QUOTAS—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED SURVEILLANCE

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the significance of his presence at the conference and the topic of the Atlantic fisheries and the 200 mile limit being considered, and since the foreign fishing fleets in the Atlantic waters have far exceeded the size necessary to catch the existing quotas—and since these fleets