

PUBLIC SERVICE

NURSES—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the medical service nurses and federal nurses that staff remote nursing stations and hospitals in Manitoba are extremely alarmed regarding the delay in contract negotiations. These nurses have been working without a contract now for the past three and a half months. Due to the increase that provincial nurses in Manitoba have received recently, many of these—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a question would he put it directly.

Mr. Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President of the Treasury Board what advice he can give me about the stage of these negotiations and when a new contract will be signed with these nurses.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Smith (Churchill): Let me put my question to the President of the Treasury Board again, Mr. Speaker. The nurses working for the medical service and federal nurses working at hospitals in remote areas of Manitoba have been working without a contract for the past three and a half months. Due to the increase granted nurses working in the province of Manitoba—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the minister can answer the question now.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the situation is that a conciliation board is investigating the situation and we hope to receive a report any day. If that report is acceptable to the parties we will have a contract. This is a choice the nurses have taken. If one of the parties does not accept the conciliation report we could have a strike. I hope we will not have one and that we can settle with the nurses very quickly. They should not be worried anyway because the contract will be retroactive to the date of expiration of the old contract.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REQUEST FOR INCREASED RESEARCH TO CREATE JOBS AND ASSURANCE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL CONDUCTS RESEARCH IN CO-OPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Canada had a net trade deficit of almost \$7 billion in the field of high technology products last year, which is three times the loss of four years ago, and there is every indication that this year's figures will be even worse, I should like to ask the Minister of Science and Technology what steps the government plans to take to increase research and development in order to create the challenging jobs presently required by Canadians?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, in general terms there has been a substantial increase, as an examination of the estimates

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will show, in the various incentives designed to increase Canadian activity and capacity in the field of high technology. In addition to that, we have underway a series of studies in high technology fields, for example the programs being launched by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and perhaps also by the Minister of Communications in the field of satellites.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, will the minister and his government encourage the National Research Council to conduct all its future research in co-operation with the 20 odd industrial sectors in Canada, to ensure that research and development in future is for the improvement and development of Canada for Canadians?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, this is the main thrust and purpose of what is known as the "make or buy" policy, and I think the National Research Council is actively co-operating and seeking wherever it can to contract out research rather than expand its own facilities to do it internally.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

SECURITY FOR SAILING EVENTS AT KINGSTON—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEASURES AND INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to security at the olympic games, and I direct it to the Minister of National Defence, although he may wish to pass it on to one of his colleagues. Because no arrangements have been made to date with the local organizing committee regarding security measures for the olympic sailing events at Kingston, and because the on-shore and off-shore boundaries for these events encompass such a wide open area, will the minister say what security measures are being planned and when the local officials will be involved?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the security arrangements for the games in Montreal and the sailing events at Kingston are being moved forward in the department at the present time, but I cannot give details on this occasion.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, will the minister undertake to involve the local organizational committee at the earliest possible time so these measures can proceed much more co-operatively than they are now?

Mr. Richardson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the local committee will be consulted.

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FISHERIES

POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF FISH RESOURCES BY MYXOSOMA CEREBRALIS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I undertook to obtain some information for