Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Shame, shame!

Mr. Yewchuk: Can the minister give us the figures, in so far as the foreign vaccine is less costly?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Obviously, if the hon. member was unable to understand the first part of my reply, I doubt that he could understand the second.

FINANCE

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF SHARED-COST PROGRAMS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Referring to the last federal-provincial conference of finance ministers, and bearing in mind the proposals made for fiscal arrangements that could be of interest to all provinces, and considering that future proposals dealing with cost-sharing programs could quickly do away with those advantages, would the minister, under those circumstances, be willing to accept the proposal of his Quebec counterpart who would like those discussions to include, in the future a package proposal, more specifically fiscal arrangements and cost-sharing proposals so that the provinces might know exactly what the federal government has in mind?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of discussing the policy concerning equalization and cost-sharing programs. However, I must point out that the provincial premiers did suggest dividing the two subjects and having a discussion on cost-sharing programs with the premiers and another on different issues such as fiscal arrangements with the ministers of finance. I am quite prepared to begin a joint discussion on these matters.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH KOREA—POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SOLID FUEL ROCKET MOTORS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and relates to the proposed sale of a CANDU reactor and nuclear assistance to South Korea. Will the minister inform the House whether the government was aware that an application had been made by the government of South Korea, with a subsequent sale to that government by the Lockheed Corporation of its equipment for the manufacture of solid fuel for rocket motors, and whether there has been any discussion with the government about that sale?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that solid propellant virtually has only two purposes, [Mr. Yewchuk.]

either for use in defensive or offensive missiles or rockets for boosting satellites into space, and since there is little likelihood of a space program in South Korea, has the minister checked with the State Department in respect of this sale, and in particular has he knowledge of the protest this week of 119 Congressmen and Senators regarding the growing deterioration in respect of human rights and oppression of the Park régime? Does he feel that the agreements that have in fact been signed with Canada will stand up over time, protecting us from a situation developing similar to that in India?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, that is a very large question. I thought the hon. member's interest in the subject was dominated by the question of Lockheed. His supplementary question indicates he has other interests, including the danger of nuclear proliferation. I do recall that the particular transaction in respect of rockets was discussed at an earlier stage. At that time we had concluded that there was no particular danger arising either from the possibility of the sale or its integration with any military system in the Republic of Korea. I would be glad to refresh my memory on that particular transaction. The hon. member will recall that the Republic of Korea has dropped its intention, earlier expressed, to acquire a fuel reprocessing plant, in which absence it will not be possible for the Republic of Korea to create a fuel cycle or enter into any type of weapons or explosives program.

TRADE

ALLEGATION SOUTH KOREA WILL PAY FOR REACTOR WITH TEXTILES

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce confirm or deny a statement contained in a report commissioned by the United States Energy Resources Development Agency to the effect that a significant part of the payment to be made by the South Korean government for the CANDU reactor it is purchasing will be in the form of textiles?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I answered that question, and I believe the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources did as well. I have not seen that particular document the hon. member refers to, but I would be gald to look at it. To the best of my knowledge there is no commitment or arrangement as to any special consideration for South Korea in terms of textile imports.

THE MINISTRY

EFFECT ON SALARIES ACT OF FAILURE TO APPOINT MINISTER OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, given the fact that there has been no appointment to the post of Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, how