Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I remind my hon. friend that the measures contained in the last Budget, particularly those helping small business, have been quite significant and have run into hundreds of millions of dollars. The tourist industry is a very significant element of the small business sector. In addition, the Minister responsible for small businesses and tourism has been announcing a number of steps taken by the Government in support of small business, and tourism in particular. I will take the representation made by the Hon. Member as a representation.

CROWN CORPORATIONS

SALE OF ASSETS OF ELDORADO GROUP OF CORPORATIONS

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Revenue who reports to the House for CDIC. CDIC owns and controls Eldorado Resources. Would the Minister inform the House whether either the assets of Eldorado Resources, or it and its subsidiary companies, have been sold to Gulf Oil or to any part of the multinational empire known as Gulf? If he indicates to the House that he does not know the answer today, would he tell us whether such an important sale of a Canadian asset would require ministerial approval?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I must apologize to the Hon. Member and to the House. Unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain the information I needed to reply to the Hon. Member. I will enquire about the situation, however, and reply to both parts of his question as soon as possible.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

SECURITY AT CANADIAN FORCES BASE COLD LAKE, ALTA.

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Has the Minister received a briefing outlining the abysmal lack of security at Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake as it relates to possible infiltration of the base during the upcoming Cruise missile testing?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it came to my attention some time ago that there had been threats made by individuals that they would attempt to infiltrate the Cold Lake base. At that time I had an inquiry made as to the state of security at Cold Lake. I was assured that the security provisions were sufficient to resist any attempted infiltration.

ROLE OF DEPENDANTS OF ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN ENSURING SECURITY

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, the Cold Lake base is completely surrounded by woodlands and is easily infiltrated. Does the Minister realize that dependants of Armed Forces personnel have been asked to participate in the security of the base because of the lack of Armed Forces personnel to secure the base themselves? Is the Minister paying these dependants to assist in the security of the base?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that is information which has not been made available to me. I will review the allegations of the hon. gentleman and report back to him.

EMERGENCY MEASURES

NUCLEAR FALL-OUT SHELTER CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the President of the Privy Council in regard to his responsibility for emergency planning in Canada. Emergency planning in Canada has recently announced a rather extensive program to construct nuclear fall-out shelters in different parts of the country. Can the Minister tell us on what basis the Canadian Government has decided that such a program is necessary? Would he tell us the total cost of this program?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this could require a very long answer. I prefer to follow your good advice and be brief. There have been extensive consultations with the provinces and with groups interested in protecting individuals in case of major disasters. The idea of building such shelters is founded on the need to ensure that in those regions, after a major nuclear disaster, there would be survivors to ensure that these people are still led by provisional Governments. Those provisional Governments would be able to provide them with food, make decisions in regard to energy, and make other decisions necessary to ensure that those affected are as well protected as possible. That is the best short answer I can give to the Hon. Member.

• (1450)

RATIONALE FOR POLICY

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Does this new policy for the construction of nuclear fallout shelters mark a change in the strategic thinking of the Canadian Armed Forces? The Minister will know that for many years the Canadian Armed Forces shared the belief of NATO that the best defence is a deterrent which would prevent a nuclear war. Does this signal a change toward the belief in a winnable nuclear war?