

• (1450)

[English]

POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION BY PROVINCIAL CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): In that case, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to Government policy. Is the Deputy Prime Minister in agreement with the Quebec Minister, Pierre MacDonald, who says that the federal Government policy permits provincial Crown corporations to participate in Reagan's star wars program? Does he not agree that that is a violation of what the Prime Minister of Canada said about a year ago the guidelines should be?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): No, Mr. Speaker, quite the contrary. I think the policy of the Canadian Government was quite clearly spelled out. While Government initiatives were not to be condoned, private companies and institutions interested in participating in the program would be free to pursue such opportunities.

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HERBICIDES

USE OF WEED KILLER 2-4-D

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. For the past 40 years or so Canadian home owners and farmers have relied on a chemical weed killer called 2-4-D. Is it true that the Minister intends to ban 2-4-D prior to the next growing season?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that. There is a constant review of various herbicides which are used both domestically and for commercial farming purposes. I, along with the Minister of Agriculture, examined this very carefully, but no decision has been taken.

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TRADE

UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade, but in her absence I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. The 15 per cent countervail duty imposed by the United States on softwood lumber is costing Canadians jobs. Last Friday the sawmill at Searchmont, Ontario, shut down laying off 150 people. What action is the Government going to take to stop this loss of jobs

Oral Questions

and restore those which have already been lost due to the United States countervail?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, if I may, I will reply on behalf of the Minister who is presently at meetings with her provincial counterparts involved in discussing the United States countervail. There were meetings yesterday and there are meetings today. The Government is committed to fight this action.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT LAUNCH CAMPAIGN IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, in view of the tremendous loss of jobs, the benefit of which is going mainly to three United States lumber companies, why is the Government not prepared to mount a massive offensive in the United States with consumer groups and house-building groups in order to fight this countervail? We must take action now if we are going to turn this back, rather than holding endless meetings as we are at this time.

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the provinces own the resources in this country. We are working in co-operation with our partners, the provinces which are affected. Those decisions will be made by the Minister and the provinces as the negotiations proceed. It is very important that we work hand in hand with the provinces, as we are doing.

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EMERGENCY MEASURES

BOOK'S ADVICE ON DEALING WITH NUCLEAR ATTACKS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. His Department has recently published a book on what Canadians should do in the event of a nuclear attack. It makes recommendations such as digging a trench a foot deep and three feet wide, crawling into it and pulling a door or some boards down on top of you, and all sorts of other interesting proposals.

Is the Minister aware that tens of thousands of copies of this publication are being sent to Canadians? Did he authorize it?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): I confess, Mr. Speaker, that I am not aware of the publication. If the Hon. Member has a particular question, I would be prepared to respond after making inquiries.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER EXAMINE PUBLICATION'S CONTENTS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I do have a specific question. Part of the publication indicates that appropriate shields would include the following: water beds, tables, magazines, bookcases, doors, chests of drawers, dressers and so on. Surely the Minister will admit that this is a