

Oral Questions

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, in view of this extremely serious situation, does the minister not agree that it is imperative for the federal government to institute mandatory affirmative action, to develop future-oriented job-training programs, including apprenticeship training, and to give major priority to job creation for women? What does she, as the minister responsible for the status of women, intend to do about it?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, the hon. member should be very much aware of what is included in the National Training Act which was passed by the House and is now awaiting royal assent. This particular act addresses many of the problems which she has raised. I suggest that she examine some of the special training programs which are in effect, and the money which has been put into non-traditional training by the government. I urge the women of the country to examine these programs and to take advantage of the programs which are in existence now. I suggest to them that they are not aware of what is available. It is part of my job and of the hon. member's job to ensure that they take advantage of them.

* * *

TRADE

IMPORTS OF SPUN ACRYLIC YARNS FROM MALAYSIA

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of State for International Trade. Imports of spun acrylic sales yarns from Malaysia are increasing rapidly and are resulting in the loss of work, particularly in Perth, Ontario, but in other factories across Ontario and Quebec. Why was a specific restraint with Malaysia not renewed for the 1982-1986 period, similar to the restraints with other countries?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of that specific product being included in the MFA bilateral agreement with Malaysia, but I will check and get back to the hon. member.

REQUEST THAT IMPORTS BE ROLLED BACK TO FORMER LEVELS

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Madam Speaker, at the same time will the minister check and report back on what action the government will take to roll back imports to the former restraint level and re-establish specific restraint levels through to 1986, which would make them consistent with the recommendations of the textile and clothing board?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, all the bilateral agreements which we have negotiated under the MFA are under discussion right now within the department.

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF CANAGREX CORPORATION

Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of State for International Trade. In light of the fact that the minister has not seen fit to go ahead with the national trading corporation, could he explain to the House why he is considering supporting the Canagrex bill which gives the right to buy and sell agricultural products within Canada by the federal government to a Crown Corporation?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, first of all, the request for the national trading corporation was different from the Canagrex legislation. The Canagrex legislation will fill a void which is not at the present time being handled within the private sector.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

QUERY RESPECTING REPLACEMENT OF NAVAL RESERVE VESSELS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Last week the minister told the House that, despite the \$3 billion which has been cut from the capital program of the Department of National Defence, none of the major projects has been delayed or cancelled. Would the minister tell the House whether or not any smaller projects, such as the replacement of five gate vessels for the naval reserves, have been delayed or cancelled?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, following the answer which I gave the hon. member sometime ago on the capital investment or rather the capital expenditures of the Department of National Defence, he should know, as an ex-minister of national defence, that we project our capital expenditures on a 15-year basis. There are, of course, many fluctuations which affect these 15-year projections, such as fluctuations in American inflation, in the rate of Canadian inflation, and also the rate of the Canadian dollar. All these issues are taken into consideration in our capital expenditures. We must re-evaluate and adjust, as years go by, what we can do with the financial resources given by the government to National Defence. It is not a question simply of what we can do this year or next year. We have to project over the long term, and it depends a lot on the economic situation.

MANPOWER LEVEL OF ARMED FORCES

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question will be quite short. As a means of finding the money which the minister will be short of, is he contemplating reducing the size of the manpower of the Canadian forces?