

Oral Questions

tenders having been called? The minister refused to answer yesterday and today. Canadians want answers.

Hon. Paul Dick (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are getting answers, unfortunately the member is not listening.

Translating incredibly complex technical design pages is much different than doing instantaneous translation here in the House of Commons. We insist on making sure that we have good translations. We are not prepared, in any way, to jeopardize the safety of Canadian men and women at sea because the manuals, which explain how this sophisticated ship functions, are inaccurate or slightly different in their English and French versions due to translation errors. The law requires translation and we believe that francophones in this country should have the same opportunities on those ships as anglophones.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Mr. Scott Thorkelson (Edmonton—Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for science and technology.

The National Research Council has laboratories in every province except Alberta, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In its five year plan, the NRC stated that it would like to build a major laboratory in Alberta. The lab would compliment Alberta's economic strength and help us in our drive to diversify the economy.

My question is this. When will the government establish a major NRC presence in Alberta?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a definitive answer, but I can tell the member that the five-year plan for the National Research Council has been approved. The regional initiatives have all been approved in principle, and we are going to continue to develop the plans for these regional initiatives. When those plans are complete, we will then look for the appropriate funding.

[*Translation*]

MANPOWER AGREEMENTS

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Shared jurisdiction over manpower creates over-all duplication of programs and wanton waste of human and financial resources. This is why Quebec is asking for the repatriation of its powers. In the short term, however, that is between now and March 31, agreements between Quebec and the federal government will end.

Therefore I would ask the minister whether these agreements involving \$433 million will be renewed on a temporary basis to avoid penalizing unemployed Quebecers, particularly in Montreal which now has the highest unemployment rate in Canada?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, for quite some time now officials of both government levels have been discussing the terms of the agreement due to expire at the end of this month. But we have often said that the Canadian government does not negotiate on a piecemeal basis with the Province of Quebec, that is clear.

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for total repatriation, I am asking for the renewal of the current \$433 million agreements within the existing constitutional framework.

I want to know whether the minister intends to renew these agreements on a temporary basis, in fullest respect for the letter and spirit of existing agreements. That is a clear question.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister gave the appropriate answer. We do not share the member's opinion concerning the dramatic outcome he envisages without first consulting all Canadians.

Indeed I am not the only one who thinks that way. In an article published in the March 15 *Vancouver Sun* the deputy leader of the Bloc Quebecois, Mr. Lapierre, is reported as saying, and I quote him because this is an interesting comment which the hon. member ought to read: "Well, as long as the political contract remains