

Oral Questions

have been aroused by the Government. The Minister said again today that he has no—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With great respect, that is three statements. May I just have a question?

Mr. Berger: Will the Minister end the fears of the workers and customers of Canadair by giving an absolute and unconditional commitment by the Government that Canadair will be continued whether it is sold or not?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member that there is no intention on the part of the Government of Canada to “discontinue”—to use his language—Canadair. In fact, if the Hon. Member just waits a few days he will hear of some very interesting announcements with respect to Canadair and its future employment increases.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH EMPLOYEES

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister promise that he will initiate immediately a dialogue with the union and employees of Canadair who have been kept in the dark by this Government, to avoid a situation similar to what happened at de Havilland, where the workers were ignored completely in the plans of the Government?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as I am sure most Hon. Members in this House realize, we, in the case of de Havilland, have done the most significant thing for those workers. We have assured their jobs for many years to come.

Mr. Crosbie: Right on.

Mr. Stevens: And let me assure the Hon. Member that we will also keep, as a paramount consideration, job security for the workers of Canadair for many years to come.

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DISARMAMENT

REQUEST FOR END TO CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who will know quite well that agreeing to test the Cruise missile in Canada was one of the most controversial and unpopular decisions of the previous Liberal Government. In view of the dangers to public safety revealed in yesterday's test, and particularly in view of the new hopes for arms reduction talks in Geneva—massive reductions in arms—will the Prime Min-

ister now commit Canada to participate in the process of arms de-escalation and end Cruise missile testing in Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is not our view that the breaching of an agreement by Canada would contribute to the de-escalation of arms build-up in the world. As the Hon. Member knows, I will be making a statement later today indicating some practical steps which Canada takes. We think it very important, if we want to make real progress on these questions, that we focus on practical steps which can be achieved by a country like Canada.

Ms. Jewett: In a way I am glad the Minister answered because the Prime Minister does not know what to say on the issue.

Mr. Nystrom: As usual.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER REWRITE PROPOSED STATEMENT

Ms. Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): May I ask the Minister, however, in light of what he has just said, if he will now rewrite the statement he is going to make and include in it a positive Canadian contribution to de-escalating the arms race, which would be to give notice now that we are going to end Cruise missile testing?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, no.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT—LETTER WRITTEN BY LIBERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Is the Minister aware of a letter which was sent yesterday by the Hon. Member for York South-Weston and the Hon. Member for Hamilton East to the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, which was released to the press, and in which the Hon. Members requested the Commission to undertake an investigation into charges of sexual harassment allegedly made by a female officer of the RCMP in British Columbia? If so, can the Minister inform this House if he believes the charges and demands made in this letter are justified?

● (1440)

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am indeed aware of this letter which was distributed to the news media by those two Hon. Members yesterday. I can indicate to the House that I spoke in the last few minutes with the constable in question who tells me the following things. First, that neither Member, either before or after sending their letter, has spoken to her.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!