

Oral Questions

● (1415)

HOUSING**RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—GLACE BAY TOWN COUNCIL REQUEST**

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on May 27, 1988, the Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, wrote to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) with respect to the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for his municipality.

In his letter the Chief Administrative Officer said: "The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program has benefited many low and moderate income citizens in rehabilitating their homes. Many seniors would not be able to stay in their homes without this type of help. Our RRAP allocation for 1988 is \$255,000. This means that of the approximately 1,000 applications on file possibly only 35 will be processed in 1988. On behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Glace Bay, I ask that you take the necessary action to increase RRAP funding so that such a worthwhile program will not be in jeopardy."

I urge the Minister to listen to the advice of the Town Council of Glace Bay, and increase the Rehabilitation Assistance Program to help and to benefit the many fine citizens of that municipality as well as of the many surrounding areas.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**OZONE LAYER RESEARCH—AWARD WON BY CANADIAN SCIENTISTS**

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, Canada's leading role in developing an international protocol to deal with chemicals having an attenuating effect on stratospheric ozone is well known. Depletion of the ozone layer, especially over polar regions, is of considerable concern to us.

What might not be quite as well known is that it was scientists in the Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service who developed the Brewer Spectrophotometer used to measure the amount of ozone or other gases in the atmospheric column, thereby making it an invaluable tool for atmospheric ozone research.

The receipt by those scientists of the "Excellence in Technology Transfer" award was extremely well deserved.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[English]***SUPPLY AND SERVICES****CANADIAN PATROL FRIGATE PROGRAM—PARAMAX ELECTRONICS—CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister.

The Minister of Supply and Services is responsible, on behalf of the Government of Canada and indeed, more important, on behalf of the taxpayers of Canada, for supervising the performance of contractors involved in the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program.

My question to the Acting Prime Minister is the following. Is the Minister aware of correspondence between Saint John Shipbuilding Ltd. and Paramax Electronics of Montreal indicating numerous defaults by Paramax in meeting its contractual obligations?

Has the Government instructed officials of Supply and Services to conduct regular audits to ensure that Paramax is and was fully in compliance with all government regulations as a major participant in the Canadian Patrol Frigate Program?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Supply and Services is aware of the allegations raised by the Hon. Member.

The audit for 1986 has been completed. We are half way through the audit for 1987, and to date no irregularities or dissatisfaction have been uncovered. We are monitoring the situation closely. We are happy with the progress of the contract.

E. SYSTEMS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY RADIO SYSTEMS

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, less than one hour ago I spoke with Sergeant Elwick of the RCMP Special Federal Investigations Branch to arrange to turn over to Sergeant Elwick, tomorrow morning at ten o'clock, internal documents which came into my possession late last night.

My supplementary to the Acting Minister is the following. Is he aware, and I believe he was the Minister of Supply and Services at the time, of a dispute between Paramax Electronics of Montreal and a U.S. sub-contractor, E. Systems, in which E. Systems attempted to earn 100 per cent profit of taxpayers' dollars on radio systems supplied for the Canadian frigate program? The dollar amount in question is in the millions.

Can the Minister answer that question?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I am unable to reply affirmatively or directly to that particular allegation, other than to repeat what I have said. We are auditing the contract, and to date no irregularities