

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, no agreement has yet been signed with the veterinarians but the minister will be making a statement soon on the subject.

[English]

Mr. Patterson: Has the Minister of Agriculture passed along to the President of the Treasury Board his views concerning the importance of these veterinarians so that the latter might reassess his pathetic 8 per cent wage increase offer to these underpaid veterinarians?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture always passes his comments on to the President of the Treasury Board.

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[English]

PUBLIC WORKS

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1974-75

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Is the minister aware of the fact that the last published annual report of his department was for the years 1973-74? In the committee, on May 12, six weeks ago, I asked the deputy minister what the status of the 1974-75 annual report was and he replied it was due and was presently at the printers. I am sure the minister is acquainted with the situation. Could he confirm that the report is in fact at the printers and advise us as to when we might receive it?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I think that if the hon. member would consult the records of the House, he would discover that the Clerk of the House has received the 1974-75 report.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR OPENING OF TRADE MISSION IN TAIWAN—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On April 2, as recorded at page 12406 of *Hansard*, I directed a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with regard to the possibility of opening a trade mission in Taipei so that we could assist Canadian exporters to improve their trade opportunities in that area. The minister referred the question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that the Republic of China's foreign trade during the first four months of this year totalled \$4,500 million, when rated in U.S. dollars—an increase of \$1,300 million, or almost 40 per cent more than during the same four months in 1975, has the minister met with members of his party concerning the possibility of securing some of this increased trade, as promised in his reply recorded at page 12407 of *Hansard*; if so, what are the results of this discussion?

[Mr. Patterson.]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, at present we have no intention of opening a trade mission in Taiwan, not only because of the general political situation but because of the announcement that was made by the Prime Minister to the effect that for the next period of time no new posts would be opened abroad.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STATUS OF NEW OFFER BY
LOCKHEED FOR SALE OF "ORION" AIRCRAFT

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. On June 22 I asked the Acting Prime Minister about what might be called the possible revival of the deal with Lockheed for the purchase of Orions, and he replied that the government had received an offer. In another place it was disclosed that Lockheed had said that the offer required to be made definite by the end of June. As the end of June is now very close, and I also hope that the end of the session is fairly close, will the minister tell the House what is the status of this offer and whether a statement with regard to the negotiations will be made in the House before it recesses?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the new proposal has been received from the Lockheed company. It is now being studied by cabinet. I do not expect that a decision will be announced before the House rises, but I cannot of course be certain of that because I do not know exactly when the House will rise.

Mr. Brewin: May I put this question by way of a suggestion to the minister? Even if the deal is not completed, in view of all the surrounding circumstances he should make a statement to the House about how the negotiations are progressing before the House recesses.

Mr. Richardson: I will be pleased to answer any questions, as always. I have already done that.

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● (1450)

HEALTH

POSSIBLE EFFECT OF PROGRAM AIMED AT REDUCING
CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and it arises out of an answer he gave to a question I put to him yesterday concerning his plans for advertising of alcoholic beverages. In view of the fact that Canadian cigarette manufacturers initiated the practice of putting a health warning on packages of tobacco on April 1, 1972, and in view of the fact that the minister's own department made a press release on January 2, 1975 and again on January 7, 1976 containing figures that indicated the number of smokers has remained exactly the same