

Mr. Hees: And I went there on government business to inspect the forces as the opposition critic.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Quiet, you rabble.

My supplementary question is this, Mr. Speaker. As Canada is openly and strongly criticized by our NATO allies for trying to "do NATO on the cheap" and sending a man into battle—

Mr. Trudeau: What battle?

Mr. Hees:—in one of our obsolete tanks against the vastly superior equipment which the other side possesses, and as this comes pretty close to a sentence of death, I ask the Prime Minister if he intends, when he meets with his colleagues at the NATO conference, to advise them that at long last Canada intends to bring our equipment up to NATO standard?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do take note of the very serious question and I take it as a representation that the government should increase considerably its defence expenditure. I will bring that to the cabinet's attention, as a recommendation from the opposition side.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I am asking the government to carry out its responsibilities, responsibilities on which it started cutting back seven years ago when the Prime Minister took over.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that is my point. We did try to show some restraint in the size—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: What about your office? What about the tremendous expansion of expenditure in every other line of government business? The government's motto is: to hell with the armed forces, spend on everything else.

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FISHERIES

SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES—DATE OF DECISION ON POSSIBLE EXTENSION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of State who is responsible for fisheries, of which I gave him notice. In view of the imminent closure of a number of wooden shipbuilding yards in Nova Scotia, especially along the south shore, has the minister and the government reached a decision on the question of providing immediate financial assistance to the industry in the form of shipbuilding subsidies, in order to provide employment for the shipbuilders and replace druggers and longliners for the fishermen?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I recognize that I had indicated to the hon. member that an answer would be forthcoming by the middle of May. Criteria were suggested to me last week; I did not feel they were responsive enough to meet local needs. I asked that they be looked at again. I am attending

Oral Questions

a meeting this afternoon and I hope to be in a position to have more to say about the matter this week.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AVAILABILITY OF MASON JAR LIDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It follows the question I asked a few weeks ago. I realize the minister did not intend to mislead the House when answering. I feel that he was uninformed at the time. It also follows after a survey of groceries and supermarkets in the north Okanagan, undertaken last Friday, which indicated that no widemouth Mason jar lids are available there. Has the minister received any indication from his observers in B.C. or elsewhere as to when these important supplies can be expected.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have already replied in writing to the hon. member on this. I may remind him that one of the first reasons for such a shortage was a strike in a company manufacturing such products in British Columbia. I have therefore written to my provincial counterpart, the Minister of Consumer Affairs in that province, in order to draw her attention to this matter. I have also written to the Minister of Labour of British Columbia in order to ask him to hasten the settlement of the dispute.

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[English]

ENERGY

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ELDORADO NUCLEAR PLANT AT PORT HOPE—REQUEST FOR OUTLINE OF DETAILS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister in a position to give the details today of previously announced expansion plans for the Eldorado nuclear plant in Port Hope? If not, as I understand he is to visit Port Hope on Friday, will he consider the matter then?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the last details on this matter. I will take note of the question.

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SPORTS

HOCKEY—DIFFICULTY OF AMATEUR ASSOCIATION IN COLLECTING DUES FROM PROFESSIONAL TEAMS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It is a well known fact that the minister has shown great interest—