

● (1440)

**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM****REASON INDUSTRIAL WAGES INCREASING AT RATE ABOVE GUIDELINES—RESTORATION OF COMPETITIVE TRADING POSITION**

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Statistics Canada has reported that average weekly earnings increased by nearly 10 per cent in the 12 months ending in February—a rate considerably in excess of the second year wage guidelines under the anti-inflation program—can the minister explain to the House why, after well over a year of controls, average industrial wages are still increasing at rates well above the wage guidelines?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is extremely complex because all wages are not necessarily controlled in Canada. Businesses with fewer than 500 employees are not submitted to the controls, and I shall have a look at the figures which were mentioned this afternoon by the hon. member and give him a more explicit answer tomorrow.

[English]

**Mr. Darling:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Noting that the latest available measures indicate that Canadian average industrial wages are rising at a rate of some 4 per cent faster than comparable wage rates in the United States, can the minister explain to the House what factors led the Minister of Finance to pronounce so confidently in his budget speech that the erosion in our competitive position was being checked, and can he indicate to the House when he expects some progress to be made towards the restoration of our competitive position?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is evident that since last year, when the Canadian dollar went from \$1 to 95 cents U.S., we have substantially improved our competitive position.

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**TRADE****EFFECT OF INCREASED PRICE OF EXPORTS ON TRADING POSITION**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As Canadian export prices have increased 18 per cent in the first two months of this year, can the minister tell the House why this sudden increase has occurred, whether it will likely continue for the balance of the year, and will it erode our export position?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, according to the forecasts for the cur-

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rent year, we are doing quite well on the export market in spite of the increase mentioned by the hon. member.

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[English]

**AGRICULTURE****CHICKEN—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARKETING AGENCY**

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Now that another weekly cabinet meeting has come and gone is the minister in a position to announce the formation of a national chicken marketing agency, and if not, why not?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

**TRANSPORT****POSSIBILITY OF DREDGING THE SHIPPING CHANNEL AT QUEBEC CITY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport?

Could the minister tell the House whether the government will soon be in a position to consider the representations which have been made by the Quebec Urban Community and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Metropolitan Quebec about dredging to 41 feet the shipping channel of the port of Quebec City?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we had asked for tenders at several depths, and on examining the tenders it did appear that we would be able to get a very good price at the 41 foot level. I have today joined in announcing that that would be done. This, of course, respects the representations of members of parliament from the Quebec region as well as from the city and chamber, to the effect that the development of that area very much depends upon that extra depth. Therefore, we decided to go ahead with it and act immediately, in the hope that the dredging can be completed by November of this year. That is our expectation and we will deal with the question of appropriate cost recovery in another manner.

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**ENERGY****REASON FOR CLAIMING STATEMENTS AGENT NOT USED IN SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA FALSE**

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and are further to those raised Monday regard-