

problem? Second, is the minister, or the government, in the talks at GATT, making any effort to see that if they are successful, the United States government will no longer have the power to use this countervailing duty situation without at least proof of injury? Is there likely to be a successful end to that negotiation at Geneva? That, I believe, is one of the main points in dispute.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, we are negotiating at Geneva what breaks down to about four different kinds of applications of non-tariff barriers and this is one of them. I believe we can look forward to a successful conclusion of that aspect of the Geneva negotiations—that there will be an agreement signed by the participants to some kind of control over the application of non-tariff barriers.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question. The minister seemed to indicate that he did not need to restructure the PAIT type of grant of the enterprise development assistance program. Could he indicate to the House why it does not need to be restructured, in view of this finding by the United States treasury department? Surely some action has to be taken if this decision by the United States treasury department sticks.

Mr. Horner: I do not believe we have to restructure the PAIT form of grant, because it is the wish of this government to encourage research and development in Canada as much as possible. Research and development is really a very small portion of the manufacturing cost of the product.

If we could get Canadian companies—I think it is our ambition to get something even as small as 2 per cent or 2.5 per cent—to spend this amount on research and development, then we could see our manufacturing industry enlarged a great deal. We do not believe it is the small expenditure on research and development that the Canadian government contributes that is so injurious to our good neighbours to the south.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

REQUEST THAT CROWN CORPORATIONS MAKE PAYMENTS EQUAL TO COMMERCIAL OCCUPATION RATE

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. The minister has announced today that the Municipal Grants Act would be amended to increase significantly the grants in lieu of taxes. Among other things, the minister has indicated that no grant would be paid in lieu of business taxes, except in the case of Crown corporations. Could the minister advise us of the steps he will take to convince these Crown corporations to pay grants equal to commercial occupation rates?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we shall deal with this piece of legislation when it is introduced in

the House in a few days. We shall then have a full debate on it. I suggest it is important that all federal institutions should pay real estate taxes. As to sales tax and business surtax, the problem is indeed very different and complicated, and we shall have the opportunity to deal with it when the bill comes before the House.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

INVESTIGATIONS INTO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HELICOPTERS

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Considering that there has, as yet, been no final report from the helicopter accident north of Revelstoke in which four glacier skiers were killed a year ago, and following last week's avalanche south of Golden, British Columbia, in which seven people died, can the minister indicate whether a new inquiry has been instituted into the most recent accident?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether that step has been taken at this point. Obviously, we will be concerned to determine the facts and I will be looking at the manner of the investigation as soon as possible.

Mr. Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider, or has he considered, initiating a broader investigation involving the other federal departments that are interested, the provincial level of governments, the ski and guiding associations and the companies operating the heli-skiing industry as well as other interested groups and individuals, and that such an inquiry be a public inquiry?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will determine whether the more formal sort of consultation which the hon. member suggests would be an improvement on an informal one.

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● (1440)

STATISTICS CANADA

VOLUNTARY RESPONSES TO STATSCAN SURVEYS

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. During the House of Commons debate on February 22, 1977, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce said:

This government is not opposed in principle to the concept of making the response to certain official statistical surveys voluntary.

He said, further, that the possibility of introducing voluntary responses to some Statistics Canada surveys was under examination by officials of the department. Does the Liberal