

Can the Minister of Agriculture tell the House whether he has received from the Agricultural Producers' Union a letter demanding the resignation of three commissioners of the Canadian Dairy Commission, and if he has received such a request, whether he intends to comply with it?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I have received this type of request, I believe from the UPA, but I do not remember whether it is for all three commissioners. I do not feel that all three commissioners are totally responsible for the present condition of the industrial milk supply. I think they have to recognize they are as responsible as the dairy commissioners of Canada because the dairy commissioners of Canada recognized the problem, tried to tell them what problem they were getting into and so on, and they paid little attention to it.

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### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### EFFECT OF CANCELLING PURCHASE OF "ORION" ON NATO MEETING—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the statements coming out of Oslo this morning and the headlines in both Ottawa newspapers this afternoon which I am sure the minister has read stating that the face of the Secretary General of NATO turned white and his jaw dropped when he heard the news about the Orion this morning, can the minister give me, as the person representing us on the military committee of the NATO parliamentary meeting which will be held next week in Brussels, some good news about tanks or anything at all—I will accept anything—that I can pass on to this meeting to try to counteract the simply terrible news that broke on the NATO ministerial meeting at Oslo this morning?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to know that the Secretary-General of NATO feels that Canada's contribution to NATO is so important that our decision would have that effect on him. But also, Mr. Speaker, I should make very clear to the House and to the country that the government's policy has not changed.

**An hon. Member:** What policy?

**Mr. Hees:** That is the trouble.

**Mr. Richardson:** The government is committed to support NATO. We are going to stay in the anti-submarine role. We would in any event have been fulfilling our anti-submarine role with the Argus fleet for the next four years. We will certainly be doing that. There will be no change. The only thing we may change is the type of equipment we may use to replace the Argus in the early eighties.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, if the minister would take the trouble to attend any of these NATO meetings he would know what our NATO partners think about our contribu-

tion to NATO. It is not a very nice opinion I can assure him and anyone else who attends these meetings will back me up on that. I would ask the minister this: Does he really believe that a vague, general non-answer such as he gave me is anything to change the opinion of our NATO allies as to the kind of contribution that we have made, are making, and intend to make in the future?

● (1430)

**Mr. Richardson:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say first of all that I have attended all NATO defence ministers' meetings in recent years and I think many more than the hon. member. In fact, I am not certain that he ever attended any.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Richardson:** But of more importance is the government's over-all policy of re-equipping the Canadian armed forces, which is reflected in the fact that the defence budget is up by \$400 million this year over last year, and the new equipment purchases are up 34 per cent over last year,—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Richardson:**—and all this does not include the major expenditures which are in an advanced planning stage, for the purchase of tanks and of general purpose armoured vehicles. Our over-all policy of re-equipping the forces is proceeding, our commitment to the anti-submarine program is continuing, and the only change that this decision will bring about is that we would do that with possibly different equipment than originally planned.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, if the minister would take the trouble to find out who it is that represents this parliament at the parliamentary meetings of NATO, he would know I have been there on quite a number of occasions.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Hees:** Does the minister not realize that when you let your equipment run down as low as this government has let our NATO equipment run down, it takes a great deal more than he is doing to bring it up to even a close approach to what it was when it started 25 years ago.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### INDUSTRY

#### ALLEGED DECISION TO CLOSE RCA RESEARCH LABORATORY IN MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the guidelines for the conduct of foreign controlled businesses operating in Canada as set out by the then minister of industry, trade and commerce in July of 1975, and in view of the fact that Radio Corporation of America has decided to rationalize its north American manufacturing and control it from New York, resulting in the closing of the RCA research laboratory in Montreal in