Oral Questions

represents the equipment entitlement of a transport and rescue squadron, would the minister assure the House and the people on both coasts that the equipment will not be withdrawn from the already meagre resources of the transport and rescue squadrons?

• (1510)

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have already given the assurance in another announcement that the use of equipment for the Middle East will not affect our search and rescue capability.

ENERGY

GREATER CONSUMPTION OF FUEL BY AUTOMOBILES EQUIPPED WITH EMISSION CONTROLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REDUCING STANDARDS IN 1975

Mr. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the mounting energy erisis, and the fact that automotive emission standards will result in the use of a great deal more gasoline and oil—the standards are to come into effect in 1975—is the minister considering a reduction in the automotive emission standards to come into force in that year and, if not, why not?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, our Canadian automobile emission standards have been announced for 1975. They are not as stringent as those in the United States. Our information is that Canadian regulations as far as fuel used in automobiles is concerned, are not as demanding as those in the United States and will not require more fuel than in the recent past.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): They will still use 20 per cent more.

Mr. Morgan: They will still use more fuel than has been used in the past.

[Later:]

Mr. Morgan: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment. When the automotive emission standards come into effect in 1975, what is the increased consumption of alcohol, on a percentage basis, that will result from these standards?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You mean gasoline.

Mr. Morgan: Yes, gasoline; I am sorry.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the technical advice we have had from automobile manufacturers is that the fuel consumption per mile will be roughly the same as in 1973.

[Mr. McKinnon.]

AGRICULTURE

BEEF—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON TEMPORARY IMPORT SURCHARGE

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is a very direct one for the Minister of Agriculture. It relates to present beef prices. I should like to ask the minister whether he has recommended a temporary surcharge to his cabinet colleagues.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have made several recommendations to my colleagues.

PENITENTIARIES

BRITISH COLUMBIA—INQUIRY WHETHER REPORT ON RIOT WILL BE TABLED IN HOUSE

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General, who I believe indicated yesterday in the House he was awaiting a report from personnel on his staff in respect of the B.C. penitentiary. I should like to ask whether this report will be tabled in the House, and when the Solicitor General expects to receive it.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I was referring to an inquiry to be made by the correctional investigator, the ombudsman who, by the way, is not on my staff; she holds an independent status under the Inquiries Act. I am awaiting her report. I know that her terms of reference provide for reports to be made from time to time to the House. I will check to see what the nature of this one is before I reply further to the question.

CONSTRUCTION OF INSTITUTION AT MISSION, B.C. TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, will the Solicitor General advise the House what progress he is making with regard to the Mission site as an answer to the overcrowding that is continuing to exacerbate the situation in the B.C. penitentiary?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we are going to go ahead with construction at Mission, British Columbia. We are setting up temporary working quarters there, and the construction of the penitentiary will be carried on by both professional tradesmen and some inmates.

TRADE

SALE OF SASKATCHEWAN POTASH TO CHINA—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO OBTAIN FURTHER AGREEMENTS

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce