

possible, because this contract will be a great boon for Canadian industry.

Mr. McKinnon: The minister did not answer my question as to when he planned to sign the contract. Would he be prepared, either this month or next, to appear before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, together with his officials, to answer questions on both the schedule of funding for the new fighter aircraft and on the government's recent announcement of a further \$150 million cut in his budget which, as many believe, is the real reason for the delay in the NFA contract?

Mr. Danson: I did not say when I was going to sign the contract, first of all because I am not the one to sign it: as the hon. member knows, the Minister of Supply and Services oversees these contracts. Second, I would not presume to want to sign a contract until it is negotiated. I gave the explanation as to when it would be negotiated, and how.

So far as the funds are concerned, this is in our financial envelope. We fully intend to meet our commitment to a 12 per cent growth in capital equipment. The budgetary savings in the calendar year 1979-80 will not affect this project, as the hon. member continually implies.

So far as appearing before the committee is concerned, the committee is master of its own business. I always appear before the committee when I am asked to do so, and would welcome any opportunity, as would my officials.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS' ADHERENCE TO ANTI-RUST GUIDELINES

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and it has to do with the voluntary anti-rust guidelines set down by the government. Has the minister held discussions with the automobile manufacturers; have they agreed to comply with the guidelines: and, if so, was any time-frame or deadline discussed?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we introduced this code in January of this year. It provides a one-year warranty against surface corrosion, three years against perforation, and a six-year warranty against structural damage. We did meet with the automobile companies. So far, 13 companies have accepted the code, ten have introduced specific warranties which are similar to the code, and two have not responded. But nobody has refused so far.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Can the minister tell the House how he proposes to monitor adherence to the guidelines, even if some of those companies have accepted the code? Does the government intend introducing any legislation in this regard?

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: We did carry out a preliminary monitoring program last summer in Montreal and Toronto, through the Canadian Automobile Association, and we have submitted proposals to the companies and to the consumers' associations for a more extended monitoring program for next summer, following this coming winter. We are still awaiting a response from some of the companies on that.

With respect to legislation, we would prefer not to legislate. We feel that if the voluntary code is a success, we will not have to legislate.

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COMMUNICATIONS

SUGGESTED ROYAL COMMISSION ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. I wonder if the Minister of Communications is prepared to communicate today. Perhaps she could confirm the reports across Canada indicating that officials in her department are requesting very distinguished Canadians to sit on a royal commission on communications.

● (1432)

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that: there are no officials of my department crossing Canada to set up a royal commission.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister. If these communications are not to inquire about setting up a royal commission on communications at this late date in this parliament, and/or to seek employment in some other parliament, can the minister tell the House, in view of the introduction of Bill C-16, if she intends to proceed with that bill prior to the federal-provincial conference in February? What has happened to the timetable for the pay television model and/or her review on an earth satellite station policy?

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, the model on pay television will be submitted to the next conference of provincial ministers of communications to be held in the month of March. It could be accelerated and prepared before that date, if there is need to discuss that at one time or another in the course of our discussions with the provinces regarding federal-provincial relations.

As for the earth station policy, I think I will be in a position in a short while to give the House and the public an idea of the manner in which this will be reviewed.