

## Oral Questions

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## INQUIRY WHETHER CANADA NEGOTIATING WITH BRAZIL IN PURCHASE OF ARMoured CARS

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I have a seven-day old question for the Minister of National Defence. In light of the fact that a Brazilian-produced armoured car is now being tested at Camp Wainwright, can the minister now tell the House whether Canada has entered into negotiations with Brazil for these cars, and whether the cars are to be used for riot control or replacement for the Centurion, the Ferret or our armoured personnel carriers?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it is correct that we are testing armoured cars at Wainwright. One of them is from Brazil. There are other cars from Sweden and the United States. We have not made any decision, and we certainly have not entered into any negotiations with Brazil.

**Mr. McKinnon:** I understood the other car was from Switzerland, not Sweden; but I will let that go. Have the negotiations reached the stage where the minister has consulted his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, to determine if that minister may have reservations about a \$200 million arms deal between Canada and Brazil?

● (1450)

**Mr. Richardson:** I have already indicated to the hon. member that we have not entered negotiations for any arms purchase from Brazil.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to correct part of an answer I gave to the hon. member for Victoria a few minutes ago. The armoured cars that are being tried out in Wainwright are from the United States, from Switzerland and from Brazil. There is no car from Sweden.

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[Translation]

## NATIONAL DISASTERS

## ASBESTOS, QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO LANDSLIDE VICTIMS

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs who is responsible for housing.

As a result of the disastrous landslide which occurred some time ago at Asbestos, in the province of Quebec, and since about 100 families are still living in hotel rooms or in the apartments of relatives or friends, could the minister give the House and the citizens concerned the assurance that, at the formal request to that effect of his opposite number in the Quebec government, the federal government will agree to finance up to 50 per cent of a relocation and housing improvement program at Asbestos, the balance to be shared equally by the Quebec government on the one hand, and by the municipality and the Johns-Manville Company on the other?

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** I have not been approached by either the Government of Quebec or the Quebec housing authority with regard to the situation in Asbestos. I would be sympathetic to any proposals they might make. However, I would suggest that the company has a major area of responsibility; we would look at the situation in the light of our responsibility and theirs.

[Translation]

**Mr. Wagner:** I thank the minister for his answer. I would have put a supplementary to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion but, in view of his absence, I shall direct it to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

As a result of the damages suffered by the asbestos mine at Asbestos at the time of the last landslides, work has naturally slowed down and, the job security of some employees having become precarious, some 100 of them have been laid off. Is the minister willing to intervene without delay, and to grant a subsidy to the Johns-Manville Company on the express condition that the subsidy be used to work in the buffer zone of the mines, all this to avoid further layoffs?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Departmental officials are attempting to get employees' and employer's representatives and all involved together to enter into a manpower assessment and mobility incentive agreement. We are giving consideration to a number of measures. However, I shall take account of the hon. member's representations and explore them to determine what benefit they may bring. The door is open for consideration of such a move and it will be taken into account.

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[Translation]

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## RESULT OF MEETINGS WITH ECONOMISTS ON INFLATION AND COST OF LIVING

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

On February 6, 1975, several ministers met with the main economic agents of the country to discuss inflation and the cost of living. Can the minister inform the House of the results of these meetings?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** If the hon. member is referring to the meetings we held with the textile workers and with the leaders of the textile industry, I can only tell him I expect to receive a report from the Textile and Clothing Board within a week or two and that I shall make a report to the House after it has been received.