

## Oral Questions

## INDUSTRY

## SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES—SUGGESTED HOLDBACK OF GRANTS TO MARINE INDUSTRIES

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the statement by the Minister of Justice on March 21, 1975 in the House, is the Acting Prime Minister prepared to announce to the House the government's position with respect to the holdback of grants authorized to Marine Industries Ltd. under the shipbuilding program?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to make a statement at this time. The general problem remains the same, that we must get the dredging done. There is a very serious problem involved, since practically all the companies that do dredging in this country are under charge. I think the hon. member would agree with me that we should not hold up dredging for that reason. We must find a way of getting the necessary work done.

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## FISHERIES

## DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR EAST COAST FISHERMEN

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fisheries. In view of serious problems facing the east coast fishing industry, and in view of the fact that the government promised certain programs of assistance in the throne speech, would the minister tell the House when we can expect an announcement from him as to what long term and mid-term assistance would be available?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. member is referring to the income supplement program. I would tell him that we are still working on this. I believe we are now in a position to put firm proposals to my colleagues in the next couple of months. I would like to say, however, that the consultation meetings we have had with the ministers of fisheries of the Atlantic area, including one which took place yesterday, leads me to believe that there was wisdom in delaying until such time as we have an idea of the exact condition of the fishery in the years to come.

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● (1430)

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEASURES TO MAINTAIN PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCE IN VIEW OF EROSION OF VALUE OF DOLLAR

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In light of responses to written questions dealing with the value of the dollar now being placed in the hands of his department for national defence purposes, and in light of the clear indication of the erosion of the value of

[Mr. Speaker.]

the dollars which he has available to him and the clear indication that his department is slipping very substantially behind in terms of its purchasing power in relation to past years, I would ask if he can advise the House whether he has any plans, and if so, what his plans are, to upgrade this purchasing power in order to restore his department to a level comparable with past years, and more important, what plans he specifically has to maintain the force at its present level.

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member will agree, the purchasing power of all departments has been reduced by the erosion in the value of the dollar, but in the case of National Defence the best answer is that this year the budget is up by more than 11 per cent and next year, 1975-76, it will be up by approximately the same amount.

**Mr. Forrestall:** What the minister is indicating is, of course, a non-answer. I wonder if he would indicate to the House in some clear and precise terms whether the Department of National Defence is going behind at a rate of some 6 per cent to 8 per cent annually, and in light of that, where does he plan to take this cutback, from personnel or from capital programs?

**Mr. Richardson:** Mr. Speaker, the personnel force has been reduced to approximately 78,500, down from the 83,000 of a short time ago, and that has effected a saving which has enabled us to maintain the operational expenditures and also to maintain and to increase our expenditures for capital equipment.

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## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## ALLEGED REDUCTION IN CAPITAL SPENDING BY UNITED STATES AFFILIATES

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Prime Minister. Is he aware that Canadian affiliates of United States owned companies are making dramatic cutbacks in their capital spending programs for 1975 and that William Chung of the United States commerce department's international division has confirmed in a press interview that in constant dollars Canadian affiliate investment spending is on a decline, in sharp contrast to that stated in Statistics Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, but I will check the accuracy of the report.

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## MANPOWER

## ALLEGED REDUCTION IN CAPITAL SPENDING BY UNITED STATES AFFILIATES BECAUSE OF HIGH LABOUR COSTS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would he indicate if he has had any indication from affiliates of American concerns in Canada that they may have to lessen their capital expenditures in the