

Inquiries of the Ministry

YOUTH

VANCOUVER—CLOSING OF HOSTEL—
PROVISION OF SHELTER AND
EMPLOYMENT

assuming his new portfolio, and I trust he will answer all questions with the same reliability and amiability as did his predecessor.

Will the minister advise the House whether the government proposes to take delivery of the balance of the CF-5 aircraft and what it is proposing to do with those that are in mothballs and those that have yet to be delivered?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): I thank the hon. member for his kind remarks, and I trust the questions will be put in the same way as they were put to the former minister.

I should like to confirm that it is the government's intention to accept delivery of those CF-5 aircraft that have not to the moment been delivered by the manufacturer. As the hon. member knows, there are approximately 45 now in service. What the hon. member said, namely, that a number of them are in mothballs, is not correct. Probably he will have noticed that in a very few days a number of these aircraft will be flying to Germany and the European theatre for tactical trials in that area. At the moment, we have a number of possibilities under consideration to put them to use either in the role for which they were acquired or in some alternative roles. I would hope to be able to announce fairly soon after the current trials are completed how the aircraft will be put to use.

Mr. Hales: Would the minister assure the House that the tender prices have been accepted and that no extras have been paid by the Treasury Board in line with the original tender? Also, does the minister state that the press was wrong in the report that there were some in mothballs or in storage?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would have to check to see whether or not there were change orders involved from the original contract, which may have affected the ultimate price. The statement in the press that they were in mothballs is not correct.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of National Defence and it concerns the experiments in Europe. Will fuelling experiments in mid-air be tried in that period?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Not at this time, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): My question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the closing of the youth hostel in Vancouver over the past weekend, what action does the government propose to take which will provide shelter and employment for those who are now without either and who come from all across Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that out of the 350 persons who were in the hostel on Friday, 175 have already found suitable accommodation and that several private organizations, with the help of representatives from several federal departments, are actively engaged in finding rooms for the remaining 175. They hope to find them within two or three days at the latest.

[English]

Mrs. MacInnis: May I ask the Secretary of State whether or not consultation is going on with the provincial government, and through it with the civic authorities, regarding an adequate program of employment which will last through the winter?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, consultations have been undertaken, pursued, interrupted and resumed, with various results, with provincial as well as municipal authorities. However, the matter of looking after youths in Vancouver throughout winter does not come under the crash project of opening temporary summer hostels which had been entrusted to the Secretary of State Department. Rather, it comes under permanent services such as the Canada Assistance Plan and other services provided by the federal departments in co-operation with provincial authorities.

[English]

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROVISION OF
HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Secretary of State, either in the few days left in this session or early next session, table a report in the House on the hostel situation indicating how many were involved, the cost