

Oral Questions

Mr. Lumley: Second, Madam Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member has enunciated very clearly the opportunities which could arise as a result of the development of that indigenous resource. My colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, in his previous capacity as Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, has already indicated to me several opportunities he sees in the manufacturing and processing side of the industry and we will be working together in this regard.

SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to hear the Minister mention the manufacturing and processing aspect of the industry. The Minister of Fisheries has just indicated that this aspect of the industry is in real trouble, on the verge of bankruptcy, and the Minister has indicated measures to make the fishing industry more efficient. I would like to know if the Minister of Industry will demonstrate some action in his Department in targeting for supplementary industries relating to the fishing industry, such as deck hardware and navigational aids, and industries which do not exist now in the Atlantic Provinces and in Quebec, and where there are really good paying jobs and a tremendous potential? Will the Minister activate his Department to move from being passive to being active in bringing together the entrepreneurs and the programs to help lift the fishing industry out of its doldrums and make the largest fishing potential in the world the most productive?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member raises some excellent ideas and I would be more than happy to work with him in maximizing our potential in this regard.

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[Translation]

SHIPBUILDING

FRIGATE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT—MERIT OF SAINT JOHN PROPOSAL

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Several months ago, the Canadian Government asked two companies for an analysis of the construction of several frigates. One of the companies is Scan Marine, located in Longueuil, and the other company is located in Eastern Canada and supported by U.S. know-how through the Sperry Corporation. Can the Minister inform the House whether he can confirm what the Conservative critic, supported by the Member for Joliette, said, namely, that the best ship is the one proposed by the company in Saint John, and that the analysis is now complete and has been submitted to Cabinet? Can the Minister confirm to the House today that the best ship is the one proposed by Saint John, as maintained by the Progressive Conservative Party?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I feel that as Minister of National Defence, my main responsibility is to ensure that our Canadian forces get the best possible equipment. I think that our main consideration must be to provide the most effective equipment available to our armed forces who must be able to use it for our country's defence. As far as the frigate program is concerned, two proposals were made to the Department, one by Scan Marine and the other by Saint John Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co. Both proposals have been assessed as objectively as possible and without a hint of partisanship on the part of the Department. We have tried to weigh the pros and cons of each proposal and were very careful to remain as objective as possible. This assessment is now nearing completion and will be submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Defence and subsequently to various agencies which will have to check the assessment. An appropriate decision will be made, as objectively as possible, considering the interest of all Canadians.

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● (1450)

[English]

CANADIAN HERITAGE

BICENTENNIAL OF UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. In light of the program of support for national celebrations marking landmark events in Canadian history, a program which has allocated \$1.6 million to celebrate the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Jacques Cartier's landing in Canada, and \$1.5 million to the Toronto International Festival as part of Toronto's sesquicentennial, would the Minister indicate, other than negotiations, what actual contributions, financial and otherwise, his Ministry has made to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec or Ontario, to mark the bicentennial of the United Empire Loyalists' migration to Canada, in 1983 and 1984?

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I can inform the Hon. Member that several months ago, the Premier of Ontario wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada, informing him that Ontario intended to celebrate this occasion but did not intend to spend considerable sums of money, in view of the economic situation. We expressed our interest to the Government of Ontario and indicated our intention to make a contribution to the festivities. A few weeks ago, I had a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture of Ontario who has promised to send me a list, by the end of May, of projects the Government of Ontario would like to submit to the Canadian Government for joint financing.