

## Oral Questions

## INDUSTRY

## CONSTRUCTION—MEASURES TO AID SMALL FIRMS AND ENSURE CO-ORDINATION OF FEDERAL AND MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION PLANS

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, might I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the fact that small construction businesses show a declining proportion of total construction sales yearly, will the minister inform the House what steps he is taking to ensure the viability of these many small companies?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will understand, apart from saying in a general way that we certainly will take all the steps we can, that I have been discussing with the various elements in the construction industry how our activity might be meshed with the activity, for instance, of the Department of Urban Affairs and the like, but anything beyond that I would not be able to cope with in a general answer in the question period. However, I will be glad to discuss it with the hon. member or perhaps answer a specific question.

**Mr. Darling:** Mr. Speaker, has the minister consulted with his cabinet colleagues in both the Department of Public Works and the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs to consider the co-ordination of federal and municipal government construction plans to ensure a more even rate of growth in the industry?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is one of the things I think the hon. member will know was proposed in general terms in a recent report of the economic council. I should point out, however, that there is an ambivalence in much of what I am hearing these days from, for instance, the business community which is insisting on substantial cuts in government spending but which also is asking what we are going to do to stimulate construction across the country.

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## GRAIN

## COMMITMENT BY RUSSIA TO BUY FROM CANADA

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the United States and Russia have signed a multi-year agreement on grain sales, would the minister give his assurance to the House that Canada will still be a number one supplier of Soviet Union requirements in the upcoming years and whether or not Russia has given a definite commitment to the Canadian Wheat Board in this regard?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The Soviet Union has once again confirmed it will look to Canada first for grain and that our very long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship with them is still firm.

[Mr. Basford.]

**Mr. Murta:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether any thought is being given to signing a similar agreement with Russia or any other country to ensure a basic export sale of grain in future years so far as Canada is concerned with the countries to which we export?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wheat Board is prepared to discuss and does discuss long-term arrangements with different countries from time to time and had indeed some of those arrangements. The question did come up between the Soviet Union and Canada during the last discussions between the Canadian Wheat Board and Exportkleb and it was agreed by them that the long standing and firm commitment that we have is in fact a better arrangement than a formal specific agreement.

● (1140)

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## GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

## SUGGESTED STUDY OF STRUCTURE AND EXPENDITURES TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE EXPENDITURES

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the President of the Treasury Board and all our House committees have been active in identifying areas where we can reduce expenditures and that the need for even more reductions of greater magnitude is being made apparent, will the minister consider a broad study of the fundamental structure of government and its expenditures to promote more efficiency and savings in the total government operation, a study such as the one carried out by the Glasco Commission?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that is a constructive suggestion. I will be glad to give it further consideration and discuss it with my colleagues.

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## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## TRANSLATION OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS INTO FRENCH LANGUAGE—REDUCTION OF COST BY NOT TRANSLATING OBSOLESCEENT DOCUMENTS

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. It has been reported that the DND is spending \$250 million to translate technical documents into the French language and it has been stated that 50 per cent of the job could be eliminated if it were decided not to translate anything that will be out of date in five years. Will the minister be calling a halt to the translation of the documents that will soon be out of date in the Department of National Defence?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the plan to translate technical documents is proceeding, but the ones that are most essential will be translated first. We will be looking at all the documents with a view to seeing whether or not a transla-