

Oral Questions

is the Anti-Inflation Board's rejection of Mr. Justice Hall's wage proposal to the group.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the House passed a law which gives the board the authority to make decisions of that kind, and I intend to respect that law.

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AIR TRANSPORT**THREATENED STRIKE OF AIRCRAFT SAFETY INSPECTORS—
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE ADHERENCE TO SAFETY
REGULATIONS**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Transport. In the light of the fact that the aircraft safety inspectors group will be going on strike this coming Friday, what action does the minister intend to take to guarantee that no pilots will fly with invalid licences after Friday?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows from a specific experience Wednesday, there is a limited amount we can do, in the end, to assure that reviewing of pilots' licences, but other testing goes on satisfactorily in a strike or slowdown situation. We try to take what steps we can, and we try to assure safety, of course, but we cannot avoid inconvenience to many individuals.

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● (1440)

NATIONAL DEFENCE**ALLEGED NEW PROPOSAL FROM LOCKHEED FOR PURCHASE
OF AIRCRAFT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. I think it concerns more than one department. The *Wall Street Journal* of last Friday—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: I am trying to keep abreast of the facts from wherever they may come. The article quotes the chairman of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation as saying that a final proposal was submitted Tuesday to the Canadian government for the \$1 billion sale of 18 PC-3 Orion aircraft and that negotiators are discussing fine tuning—whatever that may mean—and that Lockheed would need a definite answer by the end of June when the Canadian parliament recesses. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the government received such an offer? Will it make an announcement of any decision to the House before parliament recesses?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Fine-tuned or otherwise.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I really do admire the catholicity of the hon. member's reading. I never expected to hear him quote the *Wall Street Journal*. To answer the question, we have received an offer which is being evaluated. I am not quite certain when a decision will be made. If a decision is made before we recess of course it will be announced here.

An hon. Member: Is it in writing?

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary question. Has the government satisfied itself that the Lockheed Corporation indeed is in a financial position that would make it reasonable to anticipate that the contract as entered into with Lockheed would be carried out?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, if we had any doubts on that score we would not enter into such a contract.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**EVALUATION OF PIPELINE PROPOSALS BY UNITED STATES—
DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the minister probably knows a bill has been introduced in the United States Senate calling for the evaluation of various pipeline proposals by the FBA to be done by February 1; it would then allow for the President of the United States to respond within 90 days. There is the implication that this timing has been undertaken by the United States government because of discussions with the Canadian government as to when Canada may arrive at a decision with respect to pipelines. Can the minister confirm whether such discussions have taken place and if there is an understanding that a decision would be made about a pipeline in Canada—I am talking about moving northern gas—within this time frame?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm to the hon. member the harmony that he suggests may exist between Canadian policy and United States policy. I do know that there have been discussions between the two governments on a continuing basis about this question. I will investigate whether this question of synchronization of activities has been brought up and report later.

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FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON OUTCOME OF ICNAF TALKS—
POSSIBILITY SOME COUNTRIES REFUSED NEW QUOTAS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Minister of State (Fisheries). The three-week annual meeting of the 18 member countries belonging to ICNAF is scheduled to end tomorrow without agreement reached on quotas for some stocks or on the future role of ICNAF. The United States government has announced their intention to withdraw from