

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—SUGGESTED TERMINATION OF
CONTRACT AND PURCHASE OF OTHER MAKE OF AIRCRAFT

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I should like to ask the minister whether, in view of the total history of this matter and the fact that no agreement has actually been made—and there is no assurance of delivery if an agreement is made—the government will terminate negotiations with Lockheed and seek the necessary long-range patrol aircraft through refitting the Argus or in some other manner.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): That is not our present intention.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR PROVISIONS IN NEW AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC
FAVOURING SOUTH SHORE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, I shall put my question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

As last night over the CBC's French network news bulletin the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion stated that the Ottawa-Quebec agreement on the eastern part of Quebec would lapse on March 31, 1976 but would be renewed any day now, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the south shore between Lévis and Rimouski will be included in this agreement or whether it will be covered by special agreement, as requested by municipal councils and other groups?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in fact the minister is in the process of discussing with his colleagues renewal of this agreement due to lapse soon. When an agreement has been approved by cabinet, its terms will be announced to hon. members.

PROPOSED DECENTRALIZATION OF INDUSTRY TO FAVOUR
UNDERDEVELOPED REGIONS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Prime Minister for his answer and put a supplementary to him.

As several political personalities have expressed, these last few years, a wish for industrial decentralization, may I ask if his government intends to encourage it further to the advantage of the underdeveloped or developing regions where skilled labour already exists to meet the needs of new industries?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, to the extent where the question deals with industrial decentralization, I shall convey to the minister the representations and arguments of the hon. member. With regard to the decentralization of government services, that matter concerns the President of the Treasury Board who has already made very helpful decisions for the province of Quebec in that regard.

[English]

Oral Questions

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR NAMES OF PEOPLE MR. DRURY CONSULTED
ABOUT APPROACHING JUDGE HUGESSEN

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works following up questions regarding the confrontation issue raised by the hon. member for Vancouver South. Yesterday the Minister of Public Works admitted that he had consulted some of his colleagues in cabinet on the question of confrontation which he raised with Mr. Justice Hugessen. He stated further that he would try to get some precise recollection about whom he talked to before he approached Mr. Justice Hugessen. Has the minister succeeded in recollecting with whom he discussed this matter, and will he now give us the names of his colleagues?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have read over the question and answer of yesterday, and it is apparent that there was some confusion in my mind as to whether we were talking about the rumour or the confrontation. I have been endeavouring to recollect where I had heard or might have heard this rumour, which I gave an undertaking to do. In so far as the hon. member for Vancouver South was seeking from me the names of my cabinet colleagues with whom I had discussed the issue generally or the nature of the law case, I think I cannot do better than repeat my previous position, that conversations as between cabinet colleagues should not be disclosed in answer to questions during the question period.

● (1420)

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I submit that is a lot of nonsense—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: —because yesterday the Minister of Public Works stated, regardless of whether he is talking about confrontation or ganging up, in no uncertain terms:

Mr. Speaker, I have no very clear recollection but I thought I probably did mention this to some of my other colleagues in cabinet.

I just want to tell the minister that the hon. member for Vancouver South—

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

ALLEGEDLY CONFLICTING STATEMENTS OF MR. DRURY
CONCERNING GANGING UP ON FRENCH SPEAKING MINISTERS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my second question and I hope the minister will be able to answer this, is that on Thursday of last week the Minister of Public Works stated:

... it is difficult to ascribe a precise source to baseless rumours.

He was referring to the alleged ganging up of the English-speaking establishment against prominently placed