

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the hon. member refer to the contract as one that displeases anyone. I thought there was general favour for the fact that we entered into insurance contracts for the smaller airports across this country when it was beyond their means to enter into satisfactory contracts of insurance one by one by themselves.

Obviously, the issue of equipment is one we have constantly under review. As we have funds available, equipment is bought and appropriate equipment is moved according to the traffic patterns of air travel in this country.

Mr. Brisco: In light of the fact the existing radio navigational aid is so old that spare parts are obtained from the Smithsonian Institute and in light of the fact that Castlegar is acknowledged by pilots to be one of the most hazardous airports in Canada in terms of the final and immediate approaches, will the minister now consider implementation of a program to put VOR into Castlegar?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, every airport without an ILS or VOR wants one. There is simply not enough money to meet all these requests and to do these nice things all over the country at once. We look carefully at the priorities in terms of the numbers of flights and such things as the conditions, including any special geographical characteristics. It is on that basis that decisions are made about where the necessary equipment will be placed.

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INDUSTRY

AVAILABILITY OF STEEL TO CONTRACTORS IN WESTERN CANADA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question affects three ministers, Industry, Trade and Commerce, National Revenue, and Finance, and anyone can answer.

Mr. MacKay: I doubt it.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): With regard to the Anti-Dumping Tribunal's binding imposition of a special duty on steel shapes, I-beams, and so forth, will the minister concerned explain to the steel constructors and contractors in western Canada why they cannot get steel?

● (1450)

Canadian suppliers who are supposed to be protected are not even interested in supplying steel or selling their steel abroad because of the devalued dollar. What are western Canadian constructors going to do? Can we not get some relief when we need the steel?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, western contractors can buy steel. The problem is that they cannot buy steel in Canada at dump

prices which are injurious to our industry. That is the difficulty. Perhaps the hon. member wants to ask the government to disallow the ruling of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal, but I am sure there might be a time or two when such rulings might be injurious to Alberta or western Canada with regard to other products.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, if the minister will accept an increase of 40 per cent in the price of steel, and if he will agree that steel from Canadian suppliers is not obtainable, the question of dumping is absolutely academic. If the government was able to make an exception for British Columbia for part of the time, why is it not able now to recognize that the ruling has no relevance to the market at the present time?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, what the government did at that time was to allow contractors to put in their bids. They bid on construction projects. The government served notice that the findings of the Anti-Dumping Tribunal were in fact injurious to Canadian industry. If my memory serves me correctly, we gave the industry 90 days' notice, and steel can still be bought from Japan, South Korea, the United States or from Canadian mills. However, steel cannot be bought at what is considered dumping prices.

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FISHERIES

NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING ALASKA COAST HALIBUT FISHERY

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, what the government actually did was discourage foreign suppliers from selling to Canada, and now we cannot buy the stuff any more.

My question is to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. What is the status of negotiations relative to halibut fishing off the Alaska coast?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and I will be briefed by those who attended the negotiations this afternoon at 3.30. Until then, I should not venture public comment.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker the fishermen in that area are very concerned that their privileges will be exchanged for rights granted in eastern waters.

An hon. Member: Bull!

Mr. Friesen: They have registered their protest with the minister with respect to this matter. Reports are that they will be excluded from American waters and that they will have to go to Canadian waters which are already overfished. Are these reports correct? There are 140 licensed trawlers in Canadian waters fishing for groundfish. Added to that are 40 to 60 vessels which are presently fishing for halibut. What contin-