

Mr. Lang: I would expect to be able to make an announcement concerning the formula for payment at a very early date.

* * *

AIRPORTS

SUGGESTED USE OF ARMED FORCES RADAR TECHNICIANS TO SERVICE EQUIPMENT SO PEOPLE MAY TRAVEL

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Minister of National Defence. Would the minister agree to have Armed Forces radar technicians put the radars at our major international airports back into operation so that communications can resume and those who have to travel may be able to do so?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): The Minister of National Defence is not here today—he is not on the roster—but I am sure he will be here tomorrow and will be delighted to answer the hon. member's question.

Mr. Hees: I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings. I appreciate his co-operation. The purpose of interrupting the hon. member is to allow the hon. member for Trinity to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Hellyer: May I direct my supplementary to the Prime Minister. Would he intervene and make sure that the radars are put back into operation so that communications can resume in the normal way?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will consider the suggestion of the right hon.—the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

* * *

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—STATEMENT BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER INDICATING POSSIBLE FURTHER CANADIAN CONCESSIONS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Was the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when he was dealing with the subject of trade relations between Canada and the United States in Winnipeg on Saturday, expressing government policy when he said: "We have made contributions to the correction of some of these imbalances and we are prepared to go further." If so, can the Prime Minister outline to the House just what further contributions the government is prepared to make?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Perhaps I might be permitted to answer the question, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. minister will appreciate that there is a difficulty here. Perhaps the question might be rephrased by the hon. member who asked it in the first instance. It is well established procedurally that questions cannot be asked about statements made outside the House except in the way that the question was asked by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings. With the consent of the House the minister might be allowed to reply, but in any event it would not be in conformity with the rules.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): If I may answer, the minister was expressing government policy.

[Later:]

Mr. Hees: Is the government planning, as a possible further contribution, to cancel the two principal safeguards in the Canada-United States auto pact? If not, could we be advised what other industries will be affected by this possible contribution?

Mr. Trudeau: It would be hardly proper to negotiate in public and to say right now, openly, what the government is prepared to do by way of further concessions unless we know what further concessions the Americans are prepared to make.

Mr. Hees: Does the Prime Minister not agree that industry has a right to know which parts of industry are to be sacrificed in the course of this cap-in-hand approach to the United States government?

Mr. Speaker: Order please. That is argument. In those terms the question is not in order.

* * *

ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—AGREEMENT BY PANARCTIC TO GIVE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL OF ARCTIC SUPPLIES TO U.S. UTILITIES—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. May I ask the minister whether Panarctic Oils, in which the Canadian government is the largest single shareholder, has entered into an agreement by which certain United States utilities and transmission companies, in return for advancing \$75 million over a five-year period, will be granted right of first refusal of Arctic gas supplies?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, according to the agreement signed last July, those companies may have first right to refuse should the Northern Canada Power Commission authorize gas exports. But, prior to making use of this right, they must have obtained an export permit from the Northern Canada Power Commission.

[English]

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that Canadian taxpayers have a substantial investment in this company may I ask the minister whether he would be prepared to table the agreement which has been entered into between