

Order Paper Questions

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that it should develop a contingency plan in the event of non-removal of existing non-tariff barriers or the introduction of new non-tariff barriers by foreign countries and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that ITC, EDC and CIDA should collaborate to optimize financing programs in support of domestic manufacturers' exports and to select aid projects which match the particular skills of Canada's manufacturing industry with the needs of developing countries and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that it should investigate further means by which the link between subsidiaries and parent companies that are foreign owned can be used to benefit Canadian firms and to strengthen their performance and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that the government should continue to press for a stronger international agreement limiting the provision of concessional financing to developed countries and should monitor the level of financing coming into Canada, with a view to neutralizing its effect when it is used to finance products which compete directly with Canadian products and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that the Canadian economy reap benefits for Canadian industry by assuring access to foreign markets or by devices designed to assure Canadian manufacturers a "fair" chance in the Canadian market and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that Canada should seek to delay the reduction of Canadian tariffs until it is demonstrated that relevant non-trade barriers have been removed and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that the government consider a domestic financing corporation to assure that Canadian manufacturers are not at a disadvantage in their own country and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that the government should re-examine the position of the Canadian manufacturer relative to foreign competitors on the matter of dumping, following which a joint industry-government effort should be made to develop appropriate policy and procedures to prevent dumping in so far as possible by (a) shortening the time element in the finding of dumping and of injury (b) minimizing the cost to the Canadian company in demonstrating that injury has taken place (c) definition of "injury" that should not make it unreasonably difficult to establish that injury has taken place (d) requiring an affidavit from the foreign supplier that the goods are not being dumped (e) a commitment not to purchase foreign goods at dumped prices and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that Canada should work toward neutralizing the United States disc program and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that Canada should work toward eliminating the advantage held by the United States on the matter of the definition of "injury" for countervail purposes and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that the government should assure that the lowering of Canadian tariffs does not put Third World countries in a preferred position in the Canadian market by using aid granted by Canada for industrial development and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that it change the application of the federal manufacturers' sales tax so that imports do not derive a competitive advantage

over Canadian manufactured appliances and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that tied aid can be justified and should be emphasized and that it should be a fundamental guideline of Canada's aid policy to use Canadian consultants, Canadian specifications and Canadian products and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that it should shorten the period for write-offs for tax purposes of building investments to encourage expansion needed to support programs related to investment for productivity improvement and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Did the sector task force on the Canadian Electrical Industry recommend to the government in July, 1978, that adjustment policies and plans should be developed before the tariff reductions come into effect and, if so, what was the government's reaction to the recommendation?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In so far as the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is concerned: This question is derived directly from the report of the Consultative Task Force on the Canadian Electrical Industry. This report was released in November, 1978, and its contents are available to the general public. The reaction by the federal government to each of these points was published in "Response of the Federal Government to the Recommendations of the Consultative Task Force on the Canadian Electrical Industry". This report was made public in May, 1979.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Are the other questions allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. McGRATH—SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, the only reason I rise on a point of order now before you call the orders of the day is because the government House leader is about to leave the House, and perhaps I can be permitted to raise my point of order now.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member has a point of order?

Mr. McGrath: Yes, madam Speaker. It deals with business of the House. I realize that perhaps the government House leader has an important engagement. I do so in the relative peace and tranquility of a Friday session, and I am sure the hon. gentleman will appreciate what I am about to say in light of the very serious questions raised in the House today regarding an order of this House established last night setting up a joint committee of the House and the other place. Today the Acting Prime Minister referred to the committee being the master of its own destiny. But the committee can only operate