

NUCLEAR ENERGY

SALE OF NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT TO ARGENTINA—SAFEGUARDS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will he tell the House whether there have been any discussions by him, or jointly with any of his colleagues, with any officials of the government of Argentina which would indicate that the Government of Canada is prepared to lessen its safeguards with regard to the sale of nuclear equipment of any kind in exchange for a write-off of further financial losses suffered by AECL on its 1974 nuclear reactor sale to Argentina?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, to my knowledge there was no discussion to lower the standards established by the Canadian government concerning the use of nuclear energy, be it with Argentina or any other country.

[*English*]

Miss MacDonald: My supplementary is to the same minister. Have there been any changes in the original arrangements with Argentina that would lead to a write-off of the losses suffered by AECL on the 1974 nuclear reactor sale and, as a condition of that, has the government in any way indicated that it would not be as insistent in pressing that Argentina sign the non-proliferation treaty?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, discussions were held with representatives of the government of Argentina when they came to Canada a few months ago. At that time, we were very happy to find out, on the one hand, that the government of Argentina was prepared to revise certain provisions contained in the previous contract in order to compensate Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. for a number of additional expenses incurred. On the other hand, we happily found out that Argentina had reaffirmed its interest in acquiring new Candu nuclear reactors in the future. Finally, I am not aware of any discussions which would have resulted in lowering the standards established by the Canadian government in this area. I must point out in particular that we are very happy that this government has succeeded in reinstating the good relationship that had been severely damaged by the hon. lady when she was minister.

Oral Questions

● (1500)

[*English*]

PUBLIC SERVICE SUPERANNUATION ACT

REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO CORRECT UNFAIRNESS—RCMP PROVISIONS

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Paproski: Edmonton North?

Mr. Knowles: Winnipeg North Centre.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Two members fighting it out.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please take the floor.

Hon. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I am glad I have you in my corner, Madam Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Madam Speaker, may I put a question to the President of Treasury Board? In view of public concern expressed recently about the unfairness of the Public Service Superannuation Act in that it pays only a 50 per cent pension to a widow of a public servant and, also, in that it pays no pension at all to a widow who married a public servant after he retired, no matter how long the marriage might have lasted, has the hon. gentleman given consideration to correcting these unfairnesses in the act?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, we are currently reviewing all these superannuation provisions. In the course of this review we shall certainly address the issues which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre raises.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether he will consult with his colleague, the Solicitor General, who is in charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and with the Minister of National Defence, who is in charge of superannuation for the forces, in the hope that improvements to be made could apply to all these plans?

Mr. Johnston: It is our practice to consult on these matters. In fact, I have already had discussions with my colleague the Solicitor General with regard to certain aspects of the RCMP pension provisions, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that there will be complete and thorough consultation with all interested cabinet colleagues.