

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL DEFENCE**

PURCHASE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Defence I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman confirm that the new fighter project management office has recommended that a short list of three planes be considered for the impending fighter contract—the F-16, the F-18A and the F-18L?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not sure what the hon. member is quoting from. It is certainly not government policy.

Mr. McKinnon: I was not quoting from anything at that point except my own question, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Prime Minister has noted the following quotation from a Canadian Press release:

"One of the options the cabinet is considering is a so-called short list dropping some of the competing firms", Danson said.

Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether the choice is being dictated entirely by the fact that these three planes are the cheapest of those under consideration and that since only a fixed sum of money is available—\$2.3 billion in 1977 dollars—other important factors such as air superiority qualities, range, and target acquisition capability all have to be sacrificed in favour of financial considerations?

Mr. Trudeau: The question is purely hypothetical. However, I can tell the hon. member that we want to try to get the best plane for the least money.

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CANADA WEEK

OFFICIAL SCARF MADE IN JAPAN

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Given the depressed state of the textile industry in Canada and the amount of public money which has gone into the promotion and celebration of Canada Week activities, I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman why the official scarf for the celebrations bears the label "Made in Japan"?

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did not order that scarf myself. I will take notice of the question.

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AGRICULTURE

FARMING METHODS—BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, the largest show of its kind in the world, the International Plowing [Mr. Speaker.]

Match and Farm Machinery Show, will be held in Huron county this year from September 26 to September 30. This event features new and old methods of plowing and over 400 exhibits including the latest in farm machinery and new technology and will be held just outside Wingham, Ontario.

I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether, when he receives his invitation to attend, he will reply in the affirmative so that he can be brought up to date in the latest farming methods. Further, since Huron is a large beef producing country, I suggest he should not allow the government to increase the import quotas on the entry of beef into Canada or he might not be very welcome at the event.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I will take the hon. member's representations under consideration.

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MANPOWER

RESTRICTION ON ONTARIANS WORKING IN QUEBEC

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration: it concerns the impending application by the province of Quebec of restrictive labour regulations preventing, as of July 1, many Canadian tradesmen from working in Quebec. Is the hon. gentleman consulting with his colleague, the Minister of Labour, with a view to supplying this House with statistics showing the effect of this move on, for example, mobility grants which constitute an important program in his department, and will he tell us what decision he has taken to ensure interprovincial mobility in light of the socioeconomic impact the regulations may have on border communities?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): This issue has also been raised by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance since the proposal would have a particularly detrimental effect on people who live in Cornwall and along the border. It would certainly have a negative impact. I believe the Prime Minister indicated on Friday that we are opposed to action of this kind being taken, and I believe he also said he was awaiting an opinion from the Department of Justice. We do make mobility grants available to workers moving both ways. I will get the figures for the hon. member.

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PETRO-CANADA

TAKEOVER OF HUSKY OIL

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It arises from the statement made by the premier of Saskatchewan indicating the support of that province for the Petro-Canada proposal rather than that of the Occidental Petroleum Corporation on the grounds, and I quote, that "it would serve the public interest better". In