

Oral Questions

to by the great powers, it is necessary for us to maintain our support for our NATO alliance, and part of that obligation is to equip ourselves adequately with aircraft. It is that obligation which we are fulfilling. One cannot be simple-minded about the search for peace. Peace is not attained only by protestations of peace; it is also attained by being strong.

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TRADE

IMPORTATION OF PLEASURE BOATS

Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In a response to an Order Paper question I see that in 1978 Canada imported \$31 million worth of pleasure boats, and in 1980 \$46 million worth. Canadians can build boats. Why has the minister allowed this to happen?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend is asking a remarkable question for a member of a party which is supposed to be in favour of the private sector moving untrammelled by government intervention. The hon. member's question is quite contradictory to the thrust of his leaders on the front bench.

One has to look at this issue in terms not only of imports but also of exports. We have some very strong Canadian domestic and export markets, and one has to look at that in the light of those export figures. I will be happy to go into the question further and get back to my hon. friend, if he wants to give me specific details of the situation concerning him.

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AVIATION INDUSTRY

MCDONNELL DOUGLAS PLANT LAY-OFFS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He has been telling us today about all the jobs he has created. I would like to ask him why, after every meeting he has had with the United Auto Workers of McDonnell Douglas, another 500 are laid off. Has he taken their suggestions and examined them—I refer to such suggestions as work sharing—and is he prepared to take any action on those very worth-while suggestions?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, we are in fact examining the suggestions of the UAW with respect to the McDonnell Douglas situation, and specifically with respect to work sharing. I am working and discussing the situation with the Minister of Employment and Immigration to see if we have a federal program which can provide a basis for that approach.

Mr. McDermid: He is more surprised than anyone in the House. Look at him. He will never talk to you about it.

Mr. Gray: I want also to say that some of the other work we have done with McDonnell Douglas in relation to the CF-18 has prevented the number of lay-offs from being even greater, even though they are caused by an almost total decline in sales in world markets of the McDonnell Douglas civilian aircraft for which the plant is making wing components. We are very concerned about this. We are working with the company to try to find other types of work to be done in the plant. We are attempting not just to stabilize employment there but also to bring people back to work.

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ENERGY

RESULTS OF DOME PETROLEUM EXPLORATIONS IN BEAUFORT SEA

Mr. Jack Burghardt (London West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday evening Dome Petroleum reported on its Beaufort Sea exploration results which the company states are, and I quote, "positive confirmation of major oil potential". Could the minister comment on these exploration results and on what implications they might have on Canada's goal of oil self-sufficiency by 1990?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, Dome Petroleum released figures yesterday which are indeed very encouraging. They are public. Such forecasts seem to indicate the possibility of large oil reserves which would be available on a commercial basis in the years to come. I want to mention that in our forecast of oil self-sufficiency by 1990 we have not provided for any particular reserve in the Beaufort Sea or offshore, so any announcement like the one made yesterday—and others will come in the future—indeed ensures that we will have self-sufficiency in this country by 1990.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Tuesday, November 3, 1981, and finds that they meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.