

Given the fact that the minister seems to be totally uninformed about what is happening with AECL there, how could he possibly approve a \$500 million loan extension for continuing this project?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the government has not made a decision on a request made by the Romanian government with respect to EDC or any financing for the completion of work at Cernavoda. I have explained that in the House previously.

I recognize that the hon. member and his colleague have just returned from Romania. I believe they were in Romania to observe the elections on May 20. My colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I have referred to that and both of us would be pleased, if our colleagues are willing, to sit down with them and to hear their views firsthand as to the conditions at Cernavoda.

• (1440)

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the same minister. I thank him for his response because I believe that this requires the attention of the whole House.

If an agreement is reached with Romania, will the minister assure the House that conditions related to safety, to the workforce, and questions of human rights that have been raised here previously and not answered properly by the government, will be answered in any agreement, and that this agreement will be tabled in the House for discussion by all parties?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the member is willing to accept the offer made by my colleague and myself and I hope that the member for Burnaby—Kingsway will also will be able to join us in that meeting.

I want to make very clear to the hon. member that in any response there should not be any conclusions made on the EDC application.

Second, with respect to safety, this is the reason why I and others have been insisting that if there is any work resumption at Cernavoda we need control of it and that

the safety aspects relative to AECL requirements, our signatories with the non-proliferation treaty, as well as our membership with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna are met.

With respect to conditions in the workplace, we will obviously raise that as well and take a look at the changes that are necessary and the changes that are taking place within the Romanian society. I think he recognizes and I recognize that in those societies some issues relative to human rights are obviously different than the ones that he and I expect in Canada, but we are willing to discuss those as well.

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TRANSPORT

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport advised the House on March 22 that security in our airports is working and is working safely.

On May 25 the minister reaffirmed and said that “we would never compromise on safety”.

In spite of these two assurances, on April 1 manned security guard stations at Montreal and Vancouver air control centres, the very nerve centres of our airports in Canada, were removed.

How can the minister reconcile the statements given on those two occasions with what is actually happening, and put into effect as of April 1 of this year?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my friend that the security arrangements at all airports are subject to ongoing review.

While I have no knowledge of the actual condition that my hon. friend speaks of, I will certainly undertake to review it. As a matter of fact, I have a briefing on airport security tomorrow morning and I will raise subject.

Mr. Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary question, let me just read from the memo I have from the Acting Director General who states: “I am aware of my security responsibilities and have directed that immediate action be initiated to ensure continuation of an adequate but reduced level of security in these air control centres”.