

Considering that three months ago today the minister announced the dairy policy for the current year which was based on the fact that there was overproduction, may I ask the minister whether he can say to the House if he has valid information that production has sufficiently decreased to enable him to cancel the penalty of \$8.60 a hundredweight?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the marketing supply management committee from all the provinces is meeting this week in Ottawa. We know that some of the provinces have done a good job in curtailing production. But we also know, for instance, that La Belle Province has not done such a good job.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

PROPOSAL RESEARCH BE UNDERTAKEN TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR SAFE USE OF ASBESTOS IN BUILDINGS

Hon. Martin O'Connell (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. In view of the fact that the National Housing Act and the National Building Code make no provision in their construction standards for the safety or health of home occupants with respect to the use of asbestos in insulation and other processes, and in view of the fact that a federal-provincial task force has urged a wide range of safety and health measures to prevent the irreversible disease of asbestosis associated with asbestos use, will the minister ensure that the National Research Council undertakes research into the health hazards arising from the use of asbestos in federally-assisted housing with a view to introducing safe standards in the National Housing Act and the National Building Code?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for having drawn attention to this problem. The National Research Council has for some time been working at making structures safer for the inhabitants or occupants through the National Building Code. The accent to date has been principally on structural safety and fire precaution. Increasingly, however, the question of the use of materials having toxic properties is arising and research into limiting their use and establishing proper precautions is already under way.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR PURCHASE OF LEOPARD TANKS—POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING CF-5'S IN EUROPE

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister tell us anything new about the progress of negotiations for the Canadian acquisition of Leopard tanks which was announced, of all people, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Can he also tell us whether he

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has yet made up his mind on the question whether any of our surplus CF-5's will be stationed in Europe?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, negotiations for the purchase of Leopard tanks are proceeding very satisfactorily with the Kraus-Mafei Company, the manufacturer. Discussions with the German government are proceeding satisfactorily for the use of Leopard tanks in the interim while ours are being manufactured. These negotiations are all on schedule.

REASON FOR BOOKING PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM FOR JULY 15

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Perhaps the minister will tell me later about the CF-5's. My supplementary question is to the same minister. Is it true the minister has booked the press conference room in the press building for a press conference for this Thursday, at 4 p.m.? Would the minister tell the House of Commons if he booked the room for that specific time and date or did he merely book it for use 24 hours after parliament recesses, thus attaining a new level in contempt of parliament?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the cabinet meets on Thursday as a normal practice and the Lockheed decision is before that cabinet, and possibly future cabinet meetings. I do not know what arrangements may have been made by information services concerning a possible requirement for an announcement. In reply to the earlier question on the CF-5's, we have no plans to move any of the CF-5's permanently to Europe.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

METHOD OF CALCULATING INCREASE IN NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member for York-Simcoe relating to the creation of 250,000 new jobs in 1976 over 1975, the Minister of Finance referred the hon. member to his budget speech to see how these jobs would be created and the increases calculated. I reiterate the question: how will the job increase from 1975 to 1976 be calculated, average to average, for the years in question or from December 31, 1975 to December 31, 1976?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Even on the hon. member's own description that is a repetition of an earlier question.

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COMMUNICATIONS

STRIKE AT TELEGLOBE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO SETTLE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. I