

Oral Questions

virtually every province. We are also very interested in completing the MDA with the province of Quebec.

The federal and provincial governments are fairly close in terms of the dollar figures. As to the other outstanding issues, those negotiations continue. The federal government and my Quebec colleagues would like to see the MDA concluded rapidly. Therefore, the work that has been successful in the mining areas of Quebec, and in particular the member's area, could go forward as quickly as possible as well.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

For a long time now, and I have raised this before, Atomic Energy Canada has been negotiating with at least two provinces in Canada for the Candu III prototype nuclear power plant development. This project would renew Canada's leadership in nuclear design and management throughout the world. I think it is essential to the supply of power and electricity for the world's emerging energy demands in the next century.

Is it not true that if we are to have the Candu III operational as a prototype by the year 2000, decisions and commitments must begin now? If so, what is the state of the Candu III negotiations in Canada at this time?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as you would know and many members in the House would agree with, the Candu program is one of Canada's technological success stories. At the present time we are negotiating with Korea, for example, on further technology. If it is not first-class technology, you do not sell it in the world today and that has been the Candu story.

In terms of Candu III, we have spent a lot of money for the new generation, especially passive technology. There is no question that we are negotiating. There were two provinces that we were looking at in terms of putting a Candu III reactor into a Canadian setting. Those negotiations are obviously not complete.

I take the hon. member's words as words of support, but I cannot report anything further today as to when any conclusions might be reached. However, from this minister's point of view, I would like to see a Candu III placed in Canada at an early date.

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AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, in February the Minister of Transport stated in the House: "It is in the best interest of consumers and the travelling public in this country to have two airline companies".

My question is simply this: Has the government's two-airline policy changed? If so, how does the government propose to ensure that competition continues in the industry? If not, is the government prepared to say that it will not accept a common ownership of the two airline companies in Canada?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have the time to answer the three questions that have been put.

I will repeat what we have always said: We want a safe, effective and competitive airline industry in Canada and we are taking every measure to make sure that it happens.

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, perhaps if I ask the minister a very specific question he will give me a clear answer.

What is the government prepared to do to preserve genuine and healthy competition in the airline industry in Canada? Is the government willing to introduce measures to prevent the dumping of excess airline capacity on the market at non-compensatory prices?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the competition bureau will look into the issue of competition when the government is presented with an official transaction. In the meantime, any attempt to solve a non-existent problem is pure speculation.