

Oral Questions

ties, our broadcasters and independent producers, to say nothing of the Canadian artist who earns an average of under \$1,000 a month, will be devastating.

Will the minister ask the CRTC to investigate the financial and cultural impact of the introduction of more American channels on the Canadian broadcasting system?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Communications, I will take the member's question under consideration and will submit it to my colleague when he gets back to the House.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the question will be transmitted to the Minister of Communications.

In the meantime I ask this minister who responds if he thinks it makes very much good common practical sense for Canadian consumers to be punished and not to be allowed to maintain and retain their Canadian programs if they choose to buy more American? Does that make any logical sense to him?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is well known that this government, through its different Ministers of Communications, has always taken the interests of the Canadian public to heart and will continue to do so.

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AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, the Canada Space Agency has a regional goal for spending 10 per cent of its budget in Atlantic Canada.

Two years ago the Minister of Science reconfirmed this commitment and acknowledged they were a little behind. We now have a very active aerospace industry in Atlantic Canada.

Would the minister reconfirm this commitment, ensure an effort to achieve the 10 per cent goal and indicate what steps the industry could take to achieve the 10 per cent goal?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to confirm to my hon. colleague that indeed the goal is still 10 per cent for the Canadian Space Agency to spend in Atlantic Canada.

Furthermore, we have asked our Industry, Science and Technology offices in Atlantic Canada to close up their relationships with the Canadian Space Agency, to ensure that those companies in Atlantic Canada that can and are willing to meet the standards are known to the Canadian Space Agency and we can get on with increasing the number. As my hon. friend says it is now slightly below the number. We will meet the target.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

As I informed his office this morning, a woman citizen of Honduras, Sylvia Ortiz Medina Cajina, is due for early removal back to the United States and perhaps to Honduras with her three children, one of them Canadian-born. This is in direct violation of backlog procedures.

Mrs. Cajina's husband, with whom she was living when she was arrested and detained, has been in the backlog since 1988 still waiting for a hearing of his refugee claim. In accordance with refugee backlog procedures, she was assured in 1990 by an immigration officer that no enforcement action would be taken against her until her husband's case was heard.

Therefore I ask the minister to intervene and to stop the deportation of this mother and children until the husband's case has been heard.

• (1500)

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that deportation of the person and children in question is not imminent. As he raised the matter with my office this morning, I am looking into it and should be able to report to him as soon as I have further developments.

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EMPLOYMENT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

Today Statistics Canada announced that its help wanted index declined another three points during the month of March. This means the index fell a full 10 points during the first quarter of this year and the