

*Oral Questions***METRIC CONVERSION**

## POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who has been very diligent recently in saying that he is going to prosecute those who do not use the metric system. Is he indeed going to prosecute government Departments which do not use the metric system, particularly those Departments that are his responsibility and which are not using the metric system?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is aware that legislation was passed, and regulations were approved following its passage to govern certain aspects of the metric system as it applies to the sale of gas, the sale of furniture and the sale of food that is weighed and sold in retail stores. These are the three areas where the legislation is in force, and these are the only areas with respect to which warnings were issued.

[*English*]

## WEIGHING OF MAIL IN POST OFFICES

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Madam Speaker, does the Minister intend to use the same diligence with post offices which are not using metric scales in the weighing of mail, since they also come under his responsibility, and post offices in Ontario do not have metric scales?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Hang them!

[*Translation*]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I am going to check the allegation made by the Hon. Member, and if the law is not being complied with, steps will certainly be taken to ensure compliance by all those concerned, including the Post Office.

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[*English*]

**TRADE**

## STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON EUROPEAN AIRBUS PROJECT

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for International Trade. Will the Minister give us the status of negotiations with Airbus and the Government's proposal to build a factory in Quebec? Secondly, has he considered the effect of such an enterprise on other airplane manufacturers in Canada and their Canadian parts suppliers?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member will be aware of the fact that negotiations for the location of industries in Canada is a subject matter which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It would be

better that the question be directed to him in relation to the negotiations for the establishment of a plant in this country.

## REASONS FOR SELECTION OF AIRBUS PROJECT

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Madam Speaker, as the Minister responsible for International Trade, would the Minister tell the House why the Government decided to go with Airbus instead of giving encouragement to manufacturers in North America, such as McDonnell-Douglas, Lockheed and Boeing, to the plants of which Canadian suppliers have already been supplying parts?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** The Hon. Member asks a question which again might be better directed to the Minister of Industry. Let me, in a general and brief manner, indicate to him that in any such negotiations involving either the Department of Industry or, in a smaller manner, the Department of Trade, we are concerned with what is the best commercial advantage to Canada in maximizing job opportunities for Canadians. He can be well assured that the Minister of Industry has that goal very much in mind in negotiations on this matter.

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**ENERGY**

## PRICE OF NATURAL GAS EXPORTS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy. I have before me the text of a letter from the Reagan White House, specifically from the assistant to the President, to 75 Congressmen, revealing plans to intensify pressure on Canada to reduce the price of natural gas which we export to the United States. As well, I have a quote from the Minister to the Energy Committee last week where he said, "So should we have a more flexible approach for prices? I say no for the time being because I want to make sure the Canadian producers get the maximum possible price, maximum possible income".

Would the Minister confirm there are United States-Canada energy talks planned for early 1983, and would he give this House his iron-clad assurance that he will take the same position he advanced in committee and not cave in to American pressure to lower our natural gas prices?

● (1440)

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I do not know of any specific plans for meetings with officials in the United States about this problem at this time. Of course we are willing to talk with them, but the statement I made in committee remains, that is, we will try to get the maximum return for producers in Canada. Of course, if some Congressman can make noises in the United States it is his privilege, but the policy will be one that will benefit Canadians first.