

INDUSTRY

FUNDING ARRANGEMENT WITH GERMAN AEROSPACE COMPANY

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. For a number of months there have been ongoing negotiations with various offshore manufacturers to invest in the aerospace industry in Canada. Because of the high unemployment rate in the Niagara region, and because we have an aerospace plant in the region, namely, Fleet Industries of Fort Erie, could the Minister advise us of the status of these negotiations, and tell us if our employment rate will be helped if these negotiations are successful?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, about an hour ago the Government of Canada—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lumley: I realize the Opposition does not want to hear any good news. It is not interested in the creation of new jobs or high technology. We understand that, but we on this side think it is pretty important.

About an hour ago the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada announced a joint funding arrangement with one of the largest aerospace manufacturing companies in the world, MBB from Germany, which will create about 760 permanent high technology jobs in Canada, and invest about \$72 million.

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ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD

REGULATIONS GOVERNING WORKERS' SAFETY—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I hope he will give some good news to the workers in the atomic energy field. As the Minister knows, three weeks ago in the House of Commons I asked him if he was aware of the fact that the Atomic Energy Control Board was in the process of increasing the risk levels of workers in the atomic industry, including increasing fivefold the risks to women working in the atomic energy area. At that time the Minister promised to look into the matter and to see whether or not he would allow, or force, the Atomic Energy Control Board to have open hearings on these increases in the guidelines.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have studied that problem and discussed it with the authorities who assured me that public hearings can be held if need be. They assured me that they have been in touch with the people concerned by that situation but, according to them, there is no serious problem at this

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moment. However, if the Hon. Member wants to raise some problems which have not been drawn to the attention of the Board, he could let me know more specifically what they are and I could make sure that the people involved are heard by the Board.

[English]

INCREASE IN PERMISSIBLE RADIATION LEVEL

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Minister of Energy. I raised these concerns with the Minister in the House three weeks ago. When the radiation level is increased five times for young women with unborn children, it is a public concern which requires open public hearings. I wish the Minister would act. I ask him to instruct the Atomic Energy Control Board to ensure that the hearings are open to the public, to the unions, and to the workers themselves.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I said that they have been assured by the commission that these things will be done when they are requested. There has been no specific request to this effect.

Mr. Murphy: I have asked you.

Mr. Chrétien: If the Hon. Member gives me the names of the people who want to appear, I will pass them on and ensure that their views are heard by the commission.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—CONTRACTS MADE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO TREASURY BOARD REGULATIONS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. It refers to page 533 of the Auditor General's Report. Surely the Minister is aware of the Treasury Board Regulations providing that contracts up to \$100,000 may be awarded without inviting tenders. These are Treasury Board Regulations. Since the Auditor General is saying that in fourteen instances, the Minister of Public Works entered into contracts for over \$100,000 with architectural and engineering firms, could the Minister tell us how he managed to perform that feat of evading Treasury Board Regulations? Did he get a reprimand from the latter? Anyway, it is my view that Canadians would like to know how the Minister managed that feat in fourteen instances over the last fiscal year?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is working himself into a state of indignation. I would like to reassure him. The decision was taken to increase from \$30,000 to \$100,000 the level of consultants' fees that could be adjudicated, quite directly by