

and they may well be, but they were produced in Italy, Spain, Taiwan, or some other country such as that.

• (1440)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, all I can say is that if they meet the standards set by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the standards which my Department works with, there is very little that anyone can do. There have been representations made about them not quite meeting our standards according to the processing guidelines which they have to follow. For instance, tomatoes in Canada must be packed in tomato juice. We are told if tomatoes are shipped from other countries they can pack them in water. That is being checked, but I have no report on it at this time.

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EMPLOYMENT

MANDATORY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR WOMEN

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Next Tuesday will be a very gloomy International Women's Day in Canada. The recession, Government restraints, and the technological revolution have greatly increased discrimination against women in the work force. Experts have said that the only solution to ensure equal rights in the work place is mandatory affirmative action. Would the Deputy Prime Minister say what his position is on the important question of mandatory affirmative action?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, I would like to answer that question and point out to the Hon. Member that, under federal jurisdiction, only 10 per cent of the work force is covered. I would suggest to the Hon. Member that she address her problem to those areas where no action has been taken, at the provincial and municipal Government's levels, where there is no affirmative action, and no such thing as equal pay for work of equal value, as there is under federal jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, not only did I not get an answer from the Deputy Prime Minister, but I did not get an answer to my question from the woman responsible for women.

Many reports indicate that the Government program to encourage voluntary affirmative action in the private sector has been a dismal failure. This time I would appreciate an answer from the Deputy Prime Minister on what steps his Government will take to require mandatory affirmative action in the whole government regulated sector, and also contract

Oral Questions

compliance with all firms which do business with the Government? This is essential in order for women to have equal opportunity.

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, I would point out to the Hon. Member that this Government has done more in the area of affirmative action than any other Government or the private sector. We have affirmative action programs in place in Government. I would ask the Hon. Member to look at the latest Treasury Board settlements to see just what is happening. This Government has a record to be proud of, much prouder than any other firm or any other Government in Canada.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

QUERY RESPECTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. A few days ago the Secretary of State for External Affairs told a reporter, "We don't have nuclear weapons." Would the Minister tell the House just when the nuclear weapons were removed from Comox?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I am very surprised at the question of the ex-Minister of National Defence. He should know the answer as well as the policy which we have. We neither confirm nor deny the possibility that we have nuclear heads for the armaments on some of our planes, which are not possessed by Canadians but are under American procurement and scrutiny. The Hon. Member should know, with the F-18 coming onstream very shortly, all this will be past history. He should know that better than I.

Mr. Beatty: He knows everything better than you.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, I would like to quote from the *Daily Colonist* in Victoria, a reliable journal, which said that the Prime Minister said at a news conference, and I quote:

... that Canada would finally be clear of nuclear weapons when new fighter planes were delivered to the armed forces in two years.

Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the House, when the Minister told the reporter two weeks ago that, "we don't have nuclear weapons", was he hoping to mislead the reporter and the public, or did he really not know about the nuclear weapons at Comox?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Minister of National Defence very lucidly explained what was meant in that context, and I am surprised it escaped the Hon. Member because it was so clearly explained by the Minister of National Defence.