

Inquiries of the Ministry

heed Aircraft Corporation of Canada is attempting to arrange to have the RB-211 engine built by a Canadian based company, what action is the government prepared to take to encourage this possible opportunity for additional work in the Canadian aircraft industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe that it is too early for me to comment on this matter. The subject is still extremely hot and the companies involved are still looking for a way through this situation. I might observe, though, that if the project is too big for Rolls-Royce of England, with the full support of the British government, in co-operation with one of the biggest U.S. companies, to handle, it might be a bit too big for Canada too. Nevertheless, we will be looking at all avenues, Mr. Speaker.

ROLLS-ROYCE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES—CONTRACTS
HELD BY CANADIAN FIRMS RESPECTING JET
ENGINES FOR LOCKHEED

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to the House the value of the contracts held by Canadian companies under the Rolls-Royce project to supply these RB-211 jet engines to Lockheed?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not have that figure. I might try to find it, but I will acknowledge the fact that these contracts were very important, especially to some Canadian companies who counted on them very much.

Mr. Stanfield: Would the minister, having looked into the matter, make a statement to the House indicating the amount of the contracts, the number of people employed and what measures, if any, the government is going to take to help the companies and the men concerned to meet the problems that may arise as the result of the cancellation of these contracts?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I will try to include as much as I can in my answer to the question.

[Later:]

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce concerning the questions and answers about the Rolls-Royce company and related companies. Is the minister discussing with his colleague, the Minister of Finance, the question whether or not the Canadian dollar should be pegged at the present time in view of the present rate of exchange, which has had a near disastrous effect on many secondary industries, particularly the aircraft and auto parts industries?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Finance is aware of whatever is true in all that. I do not think he would learn more by reading the question.

[Mr. McBride.]

MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES RESPECTING RECOGNITION OF NATIVE PEOPLE'S HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which may be of some concern to two or three ministers, but since it involves Canada's relationship with another state I will address it to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Are negotiations under way with the United States concerning the amendment of the Migratory Birds Convention Act in order to give recognition to the aboriginal rights of our native people with regard to fishing and hunting? If so, can the minister say when there is likely to be some conclusion of this matter with the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take that question as notice.

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AIR CANADA

ACTION TO MAINTAIN COMPETITIVE POSITION IN OBTAINING EQUIPMENT

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On March 13, 1970, a question was asked whether Air Canada's order for air buses would be switched from Lockheed to another manufacturer to ensure delivery. In view of the projected one-year delay in delivery of the Lockheed Tri-Star, what steps is the government going to take to keep Air Canada competitive in obtaining equipment and to rectify their error in giving the order to Lockheed?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I can merely repeat what I said on Friday, which is essentially what has just been said by my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, that at this moment it is not clear what the future plans are of Rolls-Royce vis-à-vis the Lockheed 1011. I can only say that Air Canada has the matter under constant review and will move just as soon as the situation has been clarified.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

LENNOX ISLAND RESERVE—SAFE MEANS OF TRAVELLING TO MAINLAND

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On Friday last the minister indicated that his department would not be proceeding as indicated