

Oral Questions

view of the fact the North American aerospace industry has been experiencing difficulties especially in regards to finding markets for commercial aircraft, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent):

That the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce be instructed to report immediately to this House his progress and future plans regarding the rationalization of the Canadian aerospace industry and how Douglas Aircraft of Canada fits into such a rationalization. The immediate nature of this matter cannot be over-emphasized if we do not want to see a repeat of the loss of skilled craftsmen and technical personnel that occurred when the Avro Arrow program was abruptly ended.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**APPEAL FROM GUATEMALA FOR LUMBER AND GALVANIZED TIN TO AID EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provision of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. The head of the Guatemala Forestry Institute has appealed to Canada to rush lumber and galvanized tin to build at least 20,000 cabin type houses for earthquake victims before the rainy season starts in May. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth):

That Canada immediately answer the appeal.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Pursuant to Standing Order 43 such a motion cannot be presented without the consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—DATE OF DECISION ON EXPORT LEVY**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance who on Friday last indicated that reconsideration of the export levy would come up before the cabinet sometime this week. When the minister made that statement he presumably knew that half his colleagues would be in British Columbia this week. Before going into the question of how the government reaches decisions on matters, may I ask the minister if the government has taken a decision with regard to any reconsideration of the export levy and if so what is the result?

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there is any use asking the Minister of Finance when the decision will be taken since he seems to have been such a poor forecaster last week, but would he tell us when this very important decision will be taken and when it will be announced to the House.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The cabinet will be discussing the question. It is a matter to be discussed. I cannot predict exactly when it will arrive at a decision.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—NUMBER OF PROVINCES SIGNING AGREEMENTS TO JOIN PROGRAM

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I will see if the minister knows—

Mr. Baldwin: Anything.

Mr. Stanfield:—anything about this. Can he tell us whether any more provinces have signed the agreement or have committed themselves definitely to signing an agreement with relation to the anti-inflation program, since some two weeks ago the minister said there were only some special problems of a minor nature standing in the way of such signatures and it is now some four months since the Prime Minister invited the provinces to join this marvellous crusade of the federal government.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there have been no fresh signatures. There is some indication there might be several more next week. We naturally would very much like the provinces to resolve their internal discussions in this regard and participate as soon as possible. But I go back to the point I have made frequently that this is a program in which we are seeking the support of the provinces and we recognize there are difficulties for the provinces in imposing these kinds of restraints on the people in their own public sector. Therefore, we have been discussing the individual problems before their signatures.

Mr. Stanfield: I have one final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister feel he will have all the ten provinces in by the end of three years?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I appreciate the support of the hon. member for the three year period. That is just another change in his position.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON OPERATION OF PROGRAM

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance with respect to the program which was just alluded to in the question of the Leader of the Opposition. Yesterday the minister said that he would not give the House continuous reports with respect to the operation of the program but, as the Leader of the Opposition has said, the program has been in operation for some four months. Would the minister not agree to give the House a full report next week on the talks with