

Oral Questions

arguments, he might want to submit them in some form to the government.

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● (1430)

[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHING A SUGAR POLICY**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the minister responsible for consumer protection.

Without prejudice to the fact that the three great sugar companies in eastern Canada are still on trial, does the minister feel that many citizens are literally taken in by the sugar cartels, which establish their prices according to the London Exchange, and therefore can he tell the House if he himself or his colleagues from the departments concerned are in the process of drafting a real sugar policy for Canada?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, in both cases.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary.

Does the minister contemplate especially the enlargement of the Saint-Hilaire refinery as one of the concrete solutions liable to democratize the sugar market and as one of the steps likely to ensure real protection for the consumer?

Mr. Ouellet: This is also under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

INDUSTRY**TRIDENT AIRCRAFT COMPANY—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and it relates to Trident Aircraft of British Columbia which announced yesterday it will be closing down April 30. Would the minister give the Trident Aircraft company the same assistance in British Columbia that the government has given de Havilland Aircraft in Ontario and Canadair in Quebec?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, some four weeks ago in Vancouver I indicated quite clearly that the federal government was prepared to support this particular venture in a very significant way. We said we would put something like \$2 million, I think it was, behind it, and we have already put close to \$1 million behind it. We asked that the investors in that particular firm be prepared to put up roughly \$1 million, and I think the B.C. government was prepared to come in for about \$1 million, too. I think quite

[Mr. Trudeau.]

clearly the next move is up to the investors. I do not think they can expect governments and the taxpayers of Canada to carry the whole burden.

Mr. Reynolds: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister, is it not a fact that he has not put that offer to the company in writing?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the officers of the company are fully aware of our position, and I am not aware that that is any problem at all in this situation.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**LEGISLATION DEALING WITH SINGLE SECTOR BARGAINING—POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Last month when asked whether the government was considering the introduction of legislation dealing with single sector bargaining, the President of the Treasury Board scoffed at the idea while the minister himself said that he had no comment and that he was not in a position to discuss labour problems at that time. In view of the continuing labour unrest in numerous public sectors of our economy and because the Prime Minister himself has questioned the CLC about just such a proposition, can the minister now assure this House that in fact such legislation to somewhat curb the fragmentation of union power is being considered, and when is it expected to be introduced?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I cannot assure the hon. member that legislation is now being considered, simply because it is not at all certain that this is the best way to achieve this particular result. Let me advise the hon. member, however, that we have been doing a fair amount of work within the department itself to see how this tendency could be encouraged, and we have been talking with both management and labour with respect to it. Certainly, on the labour side, I have been receiving considerable encouragement toward this end.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**DATE OF CONCLUSION OF INVESTIGATION INTO SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is a more or less a housekeeping one, is directed to the Solicitor General. In an answer on March 6 the minister said he was in weekly contact with the commissioner of the RCMP, and at that time the commissioner thought the SIU investigation would be concluded "in the very near future". When was the minister last in touch with the commissioner of the RCMP as to when the investigation will be concluded?