

Oral Questions

In view of the lack of fodder, particularly hay, in eastern Canada, whose prohibitive price is \$100 a ton, and considering that farmers have lots of difficulties in getting some because there is no more supply, could the minister tell the House whether he will take the necessary action to import hay from the United States or elsewhere to allow cattle feeding?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my department and I have done our best to ensure that there is not that kind of shortage. Up to date, I have not received any official request from the province of Quebec.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

OVERHAUL OF BOEING 707'S BY TRANSAIR—SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION OF EMPLOYEES OF CANADIAN AVIATION AND ELECTRONICS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Defence and ask him whether, in view of the promise made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence last June that there would be 800 aerospace jobs provided in Winnipeg, including personnel working on base for Canadian Aviation and Electronics, and that DND Boeing 707s would be serviced by CAE, and in view of the fact that a contract for a transfer has now been let, has the minister any information which will give some encouragement to the people now working at CAE that they will not be in the unemployment lines in the very near future?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the commitments that were made in June are in the process of being fulfilled. One was that the Boeing 707 repair overhaul would be undertaken in Winnipeg, and that is taking place. Another commitment was that there would be a larger Air Canada presence, and there has been an announcement of a new hangar which is to be constructed. At the same time we set as an objective the creation of 800 jobs. That objective is in the process of being fulfilled. No time limit was set on it.

So far as CAE employees are concerned, every attempt is being made to find work for them at Transair or elsewhere, but particularly at Transair where Boeing 707 work is being done.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister the following question. In view of the letter which he wrote and which appeared on June 14 in which he said that overhaul work on DND Boeing 707s will be done in Winnipeg by CAE in Air Canada buildings, will the minister explain why that is not being done and will he tell members of the House, and particularly workers at CAE, whether arrangements have been made by the government with Transair so that at least the first call for the jobs which will be created at Transair will be given to those people at CAE who have already lost their jobs earlier with Air Canada and are now losing their jobs at CAE?

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

Mr. Richardson: At the time when that statement was made we were mainly concerned with having Boeing 707 work done in Winnipeg so that we could establish a major repair and overhaul capability in that city. Now that has been achieved. At the time, CAE appeared to be the only company that was able to perform that work, and we did not know until my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services, set out to write a contract, that there was another firm that could do the work. He was responsible for the contract and he gave it to Transair.

HANGAR AT WINNIPEG—DATE OF CONSTRUCTION AND FOR WHOM CONSTRUCTED

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. I understood the minister to say that a new hangar is under construction in Winnipeg. I wonder if he could inform the House for whom the hangar is being constructed.

An hon. Member: Where is it being constructed?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): I do not believe I said it was under construction. It has, however, been announced by the chairman of Air Canada, the names of architects have been announced, and it is a project that is clearly underway. However, I am certain that the actual construction has not started.

Mr. McKenzie: Could the minister tell us if the Minister of Supply and Services has found any further contracts for CAE in Winnipeg?

Mr. Richardson: I cannot answer on behalf of the Minister of Supply and Services, but of course there is other work and that company is capable of doing the work, and I expect that they will have additional work in the months ahead.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the government House leader. Having regard to the salutary spanking which the parliamentary secretary gave to ministers of the Crown earlier—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: It was a most unique occasion—I have never witnessed it before. May I ask the minister, knowing his desire to make parliament work, following his post-graduate course in London recently at Westminster, and because of the fact that Mr. Speaker very properly stated that he cannot do anything about protecting the right of members to secure information, will he get in touch with the various ministers in the cabinet, having first himself examined the questions, and point out to them the admonition that was given to them today by the