

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, January 28, 1987

The House met at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

CANADAIR—ABILITY TO CARRY OUT CF-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported that Canadair, winner of the CF-18 maintenance contract after serious abuse of the tendering process, is now considering building a \$20-million maintenance facility at Mirabel because it says it does not have enough space in Montreal to do the CF-18 work. In other words, after serious doubts were raised as to whether or not Canadair had the needed technology and personnel, we now learn that it does not even have the needed space or facilities to handle this critically important defence contract.

The question is how much will this cost Canadians? At the time the contract was awarded, the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) told Canadians that we would not pay another cent for the Government's decision to accept Canadair's bid over Bristol's clearly superior bid. The bill Canadians will now have to foot will run much higher if Canadair seeks government support for this new facility, as a company spokesman anticipates it will.

To add further insult to injury, just last week the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse), in a speech to the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, was quoted as saying the following:

By deliberately opting for Montreal in aeronautics, the Government is giving back—to the city one of its natural and historical roles—this is the background to the Progressive Conservative Government's decision last year to centre the aerospace industry in the Montreal region.

What does this say about the Government's commitment to other areas where the aerospace industry is important? How many other contracts will be finagled? I call upon the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to repudiate those remarks, and I call upon the Government to examine this tendering process—

● (1405)

Mr. Speaker: I regret that the Hon. Member's time has expired.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

CALL FOR EARLY REINSTATEMENT

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, the people I represent are angry about the delays in reinstating capital punishment. It is no wonder. A beautiful teenaged girl from Standard, a married woman from High River, and a high school girl from Okotoks were all brutally assaulted and murdered. Two of them were covered with gasoline and burned, and the other was tied to stones and sent to the bottom of a lake. Now a peace officer has been murdered in cold blood.

More than 70 per cent of the people throughout Canada want the noose returned for those who deliberately plan and then kill another human being. There is no deterrent for planned murder now. Even when murderers are caught, we give them protection in the prisons, food and entertainment that working people cannot afford, and then let them out so that they can do it all over again. Where is the justice?

Our Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) is taking steps to correct this, and the sooner the better. Capital punishment will not stop all murderers, but it will stop a lot, and certainly no murderer will have the chance to murder a second time. I hope that it will soon be well known in Canada that if you deliberately kill another human being, you, too, will surely die.

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HEALTH

DIABETES RESEARCH—EFFECT OF CLOSURE OF RAT BIOBREEDING PROGRAM

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, rats are hairy little animals with beady little eyes that people generally dislike. That is the evident depth of thought that has motivated our scientifically incompetent Government to close the unique biobreeding rat program at the Department of Health and Welfare, even though the diabetic rats produced there are indispensable to diabetes research in Canada.

Ideology and incompetence share a happy marriage in the Government. Cut the deficit, privatize the rats, even if it cripples essential Canadian research on the world's third greatest killer of mankind. Thus continues the Government's march to minor league science even in health research.