

developing a plan which takes into account the extent to which programs of conversion in Canadian industries require to be coordinated with similar programs in the United States.

2. A program of loans is available to small business; such loan assistance is available to business facing special financing difficulties resulting from metric conversion when such businesses are unable to obtain financing from commercial lending institutions. The loans and counselling services to small business are available through the facilities of the Federal Business Development Bank. There is no indication in Canada or in other countries that the introduction of the metric system will create a heavy financial burden. Refer to the following background information for further explanation.

**Background Information:**

1. The U.S. Metric Conversion Act was signed by President Ford December 23, 1975. Despite previous delays in the passing of this legislation, U.S. industry, coordinated by the American National Metric Council (ANMC) has been proceeding with metric conversion for three years. The Metric Commission is keeping in close touch with developments in the United States in regard to the adoption of metric standards and measurements, and its sector committees maintain liaison with their opposite number ANMC sector committees which now number 34. Each sector committee in Canada has developed or is still developing a plan which takes into account the extent to which programs of conversion in Canadian industries require to be coordinated with similar programs in the United States. The Canadian Program of Guideline Dates for Metric Conversion is a four phase program. The first or Investigation Phase where sector and steering committees are formed and policies and strategies agreed upon is essentially complete. The second or Planning Phase is about 50 per cent complete, and the third or Scheduling Phase now underway. Canadian sector plans and schedules do take into account the interdependency of conversion activities in Canada with those in other countries, particularly in the USA. Although Canada is slightly ahead of the USA with its Investigation and Planning, much progress has already been made in the USA. It is anticipated that in many sectors, where close coordination is essential, that the fourth or Implementation Phase will proceed at about the same pace in both countries. The fact that the USA has not publicized very many sector plans or schedules so far, should not blind us to the very rapid progress they are making, nor to the ability of the US economy to implement change quickly now that the basic decision has been made.

2. The policy of the government in regard to Metric conversion was outlined in the White Paper on Metric Conversion laid before the House in January 1970 and approved by the leaders of all parties. In the White Paper the overall policy is that the costs of conversion will be borne by those incurring them just as the benefits flowing from conversion will accrue to the individual organizations either directly or through the general health of the economy. The policy does not, however, preclude any adjustment of the incidence of costs that might be desirable to avoid unjust burden on any individual group or sector of the economy or to guide and stimulate the conversion process in particular sectors to the advantage of the country as a

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whole. To this effect three financial concessions are at present under consideration by government in addition to the program of loans which has now been worked out with the Federal Business Development Bank. The first concerns employed persons required to own measurement sensitive tools for the performance of their duties who, as a result of Metric conversion, are compelled to duplicate tools. As envisaged this concession would consist of a cash reimbursement amounting to 50 per cent of the cost of such duplicate tools and made retroactive to January 1, 1976. The second concerns the owners of retail scales. Under consideration is the provision that parts and units required for the conversion of scales or weighing devices from imperial measure to metric measure or for replacement of scales in imperial measures by scales in metric measure be allowed entry into Canada free of duty and be exempt from payment of Federal Sales Tax. The third concession would be that net capital expenses incurred by firms or undertakings in replacement of imperial scales or weighing devices by metric scales or weighing devices be allowed as an expense for purposes of corporate income tax in the year of installation. Such concessions would be in effect for the limited period of the conversion phase, anticipated, at present, to be five years for tradesmen's tools and two years, beginning in mid 1978, for scales and weighing devices.

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[Translation]

**QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS**

**Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, if questions No. 3,121 and 5,095 could be made orders for returns, these returns would be tabled immediately.

[Text]

**PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT FROM T. EATON CO. LTD.**

**Question No. 3,121—Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Were any aircraft purchased by the government from the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. and, if so (a) what type (b) on what date (c) at what cost (d) for what purpose (e) on what date and by whom were negotiations commenced for such purchase (f) for what reason was such purchase not listed in the answer to Question No. 344?

2. How many times, for what occasions and on what dates was such aircraft used (a) by the Prime Minister or any member of his family (b) by any Cabinet Minister?

3. What is the identity of all those involved in using such aircraft?

4. Did the Prime Minister or any member of his family or anyone else in government fly in such aircraft prior to the government officially becoming the owner and, if so (a) on what dates (b) for what purpose (c) what is the identity of all such persons involved?

Return tabled.

**AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS**

**Question No. 5,095—Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):**

1. For 1974-75, what was the total value of agricultural exports, except cereals?

2. What were the products exported?

3. What was the number of pounds or tons of the products?