

Oral Questions

the National Defence Medical Centre will be returned to work or, alternatively, when separation certificates will be issued to enable these nurses to qualify for unemployment insurance?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I made an inquiry. All nurses who were permanent employees have been rehired. Some of them were temporary employees. As there is not so much work at this time, they were dismissed. As to their dismissal certificate, I asked that it be issued bearing the date of the day on which the government dismissed them.

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[English]

ENERGY

REQUEST THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS BE ATTACHED TO GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASE OF HEAVY WATER PLANT AT PORT HAWKESBURY

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister concerning the decision to purchase the heavy water plant in Nova Scotia. In view of the fact that Canadian General Electric contracted to provide Atomic Energy of Canada with something in the neighbourhood of 4,000 tons of heavy water over a 12½-year period, and in view of the fact that in the five years of operation CGE has reportedly only supplied one-quarter of this amount, has the shortfall been considered in arriving at the purchase price of CGE's Port Hawkesbury plant?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I should explain that both the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce are attending a meeting at the present time having to do with the conservation of energy; they regret they cannot be here in the House today. I will pass on this inquiry to the minister concerned who will reply when he returns.

Mr. Symes: Thank you. I should like the Acting Prime Minister to pass on, also, the following supplementary. In view of the fact that this heavy water plant operated by private industry has never produced at capacity due to technical difficulties—over the first four years it reportedly operated at less than 50 per cent capacity—and in view of the fact that the purchase deal between AECL and CGE includes \$5 million for technical renovation paid by AECL, can the minister assure us that payment of the full purchase price of approximately \$93 million is contingent upon the plant operating at full capacity?

Mr. Sharp: I will pass on that question also.

[Mr. Francis.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT PROTESTED RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the government, formally or informally, protested to France about the resumption of nuclear testing?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The Canadian government has made its views known to France on a number of occasions. We protested very strongly against tests in the atmosphere. As a member of the non-proliferation treaty, we have urged France to join with us in trying to control the spread of nuclear weapons and to co-operate with other members. So far, France has decided not to be a member. We are, of course, glad that tests in the atmosphere have been ended, but we regret it should be considered necessary to go on testing in any environment.

Mr. Gillies: Perhaps the hon. gentleman did not understand my question. I will repeat it. Has Canada protested, either formally or informally, now, to the government of France, with regard to its planned resumption of nuclear testing?

Mr. Sharp: I would doubt it, but I could make inquiries. The attitude of the government of Canada is so well known to France that it is not necessary for us to reiterate our position each time tests are underway. We also objected to testing in the United States, the Soviet Union and China.

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs by the hon. member for York-Simcoe.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Unless the questions are of extreme urgency I am reluctant to allow them, bearing in mind that the hon. lady is one of the initiators of the opposition motion today under which this whole subject will be discussed. Unless there are very valid reasons, I would prefer to defer questions on that topic in the interest of other hon. members present.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

CREATION OF JOBS IN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY IN WINNIPEG—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Supply and Services. The Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence both made promises prior to the July 8 election that 800 aerospace jobs would be created in Winnipeg. Can the minister announce when new contracts will be announced so as to create these jobs?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, we have already announced some