

AIRPORTS

CASTLEGAR, B.C.—REQUEST FOR UPDATING OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

In light of the fact that over one year ago the ministry of transport promised a foam truck for firefighting at the Castlegar airport, and promised ten months ago new navigational aids—neither of which have been delivered—and in light of the fact that in the past year the only addition to the firefighting equipment at Castlegar airport has been two pairs of snowshoes, without operating instructions, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Elzinga):

That the Minister of Transport consider and correct the inadequacies of the existing equipment consisting of one ancient fire truck, one fire axe, two fire extinguishers, three pairs of rubber boots, two pairs of snowshoes, and a second rubber ducky for the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MINISTER'S REACTION TO SCIENCE COUNCIL REPORT "FORGING THE LINKS—A TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY FOR CANADA"

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister, who is in Toronto looking for help—he did not find any, I do not believe, either—my question is to the Minister of Science and Technology who is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, because I do not think he realizes he is the Minister of Science and Technology.

● (1115)

The minister has just had a report presented to him by the Science Council of Canada, called "Forging the Links—A Technological Policy for Canada", in which it is pointed out that Canada is faced with a serious economic crisis and that its share of world manufactured exports dropped from 5.6 per cent in 1970 to 3.8 per cent five years later. In addition, it points out that if we had been able to maintain our exports at the 1970 level, we would have an additional \$8 billion worth of exports and we would have trimmed our unemployment in this country by one-third.

In view of this report to the minister, by an independent, non-political body appointed by the government, would the minister tell the House whether he believes the analysis of this report and will act on it, or does he believe the Minister of Transport who said last Tuesday that this country is in excellent economic shape? Whose advice has he taken? Is he going to act on this report?

Oral Questions

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had looked at the figures, he would know that there has been a very substantial increase in employment in the manufacturing industry: something in the order of well over 100,000 new jobs were created in the manufacturing industry last year. But that is not to say the government is complacent about the health and promise of the manufacturing industry. Indeed, I think the Science Council's report will be a helpful report to the government and to industry as well.

The hon. member should know that the 23 sector task forces, which were composed of both industry and labour, reported to the government and the government has been able, through what is really a massive review of policy with respect to the manufacturing industry—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gillespie: —to agree to a very substantial number of those recommendations, recommendations which should strengthen the manufacturing industry in the years to come.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the figures for last year show that our deficit in fully manufactured products internationally, with the world was \$12.2 billion and that our deficit with the United States in fully manufactured goods was \$8.9 billion, up \$700 million from the year before.

The Science Council of Canada has pointed out that our deterioration is worse in advanced industrial sectors. They conclude that Canada is moving away from an industrialized economy back to one based on the export of raw materials. In light of the conclusions of this eminent group which is very familiar with the Canadian manufacturing industry, will the minister stop his flippant replies, forget that he was on the program last night on Global TV, "Snow White and the Seven Economic Dwarfs"—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: —and tell the House what steps the government intends to take to reverse this desperate situation that has grown up since 1970 under their jurisdiction? What steps does he intend to take—not flimflam and nonsensical replies?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I think the Canadian people and, indeed, industry would expect government to work with industry. That is why my colleagues and I have emphasized the importance of labour-management-government co-operation.

I referred a moment ago to the massive review of policy; that something in the order of close to 1,000 personnel from industry and from labour participated in these task forces. The hon. member seems to want to ignore the fact that the largest part by far, the majority, of the Canadian manufacturing