

Oral Questions

will be consultation on this subject, much along the lines suggested by the member from Vancouver—

Mr. Forrestall: You are not prepared to pay for it, and you know it.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I am not quite clear what—

Mr. Forrestall: Come clean.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member does not have the floor at this time.

Mr. Trudeau: Perhaps the hon. member could discuss this matter with his leader and come together on some kind of coherent policy on their part.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister neglected to answer the question whether he would table the communication with Mr. Brezhnev. Also he neglected to indicate why that communication was not made public in the first place.

Mr. Trudeau: Because, Madam Speaker, we are not trying to get political credit; we are trying to get the West united against a possible danger to the West.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES**F-18A FIGHTER AIRCRAFT CONTRACT—INQUIRY WHETHER NOTICE OF DELAY RECEIVED**

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Under the rather feckless new fighter aircraft contract, McDonnell-Douglas cannot be held responsible for “excusable delays”, a very broad category which includes “any action of government”. As the United States government has delayed the defence systems acquisition review council decision on F-18A production, and as the Australian government has postponed its decision on a possible F-18A purchase, has our government received any notice of delay as required by the contract?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, we have not received any notice of delay under the contract.

Mr. McKinnon: Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same minister. In the new fighter aircraft contract, the October 31 payment, milestone No. 5, brings the cumulative total payment to \$25 million; but that payment was subject to “completion of a review of contractor progress by the contract authority”, that is, the government.

Was the review made, was it satisfactory, and was the payment made?

Mr. Blais: Madam Speaker, with reference to that specific contract, I will have to inquire and inform the hon. member.

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UNITED NATIONS**SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION IN POLAND BY SECURITY COUNCIL**

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one posed by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. Since he has difficulty posing questions on Poland, I thought I would ask this question of the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Flis: In view of the fact that the Soviet Union has apparently completed its preparations for a possible intervention in Poland, and that the United Nations, under Chapter VI, article 34 of its charter, may have its security council investigate any dispute or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, would the Prime Minister say whether he is prepared to ask the United Nations Security Council, through proper channels, to proceed under the terms of article 34 in an effort to maintain world peace?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, certainly I think that is a most worthy suggestion and I will bring it to the attention of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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[*Translation*]

PUBLIC SERVICE**INQUIRY WHETHER RETIREES WILL BENEFIT FROM INDEXATION**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board concerning two important subjects that normally prompt questions at year's end. First I would like to know whether the hon. gentleman has decided upon a definite policy concerning public servants who will retire before December 31—more specifically, will they receive cost of living indexation for the year in which they retire, and what indexing rate will apply for the current year?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, on the first part of the question, we still intend to bring in amendments to the act concerning the