

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL DEFENCE****REPAIR FACILITIES FOR MARITIME PATROL
AIRCRAFT**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Would the minister indicate whether or not any active negotiations are being carried on today or this week in connection with the overhaul and maintenance programs relating to Tracker and Argus aircraft and whether or not there is any future possibility of employment for the four or five hundred men involved?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the department is now in active discussions with a number of companies concerning the repair and overhaul of Tracker and Argus aircraft.

INDUSTRY**PROPOSED CLOSING OF CANADIAN SUBSIDIARY BY SKIL CORPORATION OF CHICAGO**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of an earlier exchange on foreign ownership. Is the minister aware that another foreign-owned company, Skil Corporation of Chicago, is planning to phase out its west coast subsidiary, Power Machinery, which will entail the loss of 125 jobs? Also, will the minister undertake to investigate this matter thoroughly to see what can be done?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce have been in touch with company officials about this matter and are pursuing it with them. However, the company in question has indicated that no firm decision to close has in fact been made.

[*Translation*]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**QUEBEC—POWER TO AMEND SECTION 128 OF
THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Did the government of Quebec submit a request to him concerning an amendment to the constitution on the oath of allegiance to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth?

[**Mr. Speaker.**]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any request having been made to my office or the office of the Minister of Justice. If such a request had been made, I would advise the member, but as far as I know, such is not the case.

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition in the Quebec legislature on the need for co-operation on the part of the federal government to achieve such a change, would the Prime Minister say whether he shares the opinion expressed in the said statement?

Mr. Speaker: The question asked by the hon. member is essentially the same as the one put yesterday by the hon. member for Shefford, I think. He is inviting the Prime Minister to express a legal opinion. I suggest that the question, in such terms, is not in order.

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the matter of the oath of allegiance is being considered by the Department of Justice, and as for as it comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government, whether the latter will gladly extend its full co-operation in order to solve a problem which, in my opinion, does not prevent an elected member from fulfilling his duties.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member expresses an opinion, and in that sense, his question is out of order. However, I wish to mention that the first part of the question is in order—

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member please resume his seat.

To that extent, the Prime Minister would perhaps like to answer.

Mr. Trudeau: As for the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am not aware that such a proposed change is considered by the Minister of Justice. I will inquire in this connection, but I do not think that I will have to tell the House otherwise.