

Oral Questions

Mr. Heap: My question is: As well as abandoning the policy of his Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, has he also abandoned the absent Minister?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no and no.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**STATIONING OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES**

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Noting that technology development and transfer must be a cornerstone of an industrial policy, can the Minister tell the House if our Government is putting technology development officers in place in our consulates to assist in the exchange of transfers of technology? If so, when will this plan be in place?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are indeed doing that as a means of encouraging Canada's ability to take our place of leadership again in the international markets. There have already been six technology development officers designated for embassies or consulates around the world designed particularly to try to help Canada's small and medium-sized businesses which we want to help encourage to become part of international trade and international markets.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES**PRIME MINISTER'S TRAVELS—USE OF AIRCRAFT**

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In August a member of the Prime Minister's staff assured the Canadian media and the people of Canada that the practice of flying two jets to bring the Prime Minister to a destination—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Boudria: —would be cancelled and that the procedure was never authorized by the Prime Minister in the first place. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether on his last trip to Florida he was personally aware that his aircraft was followed by another jet belonging to the Government of Canada? What does the Prime Minister intend to do about this practice?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, since the matter falls within my jurisdiction perhaps the Hon. Member would be enlightened, as the journalist and others who followed that line were not when they wrote this story, that a flight was neither authorized nor requested but was pursued in the normal course of meeting training requirements.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: The laughter of Members opposite just—

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): It just happened to go to West Palm Beach.

Mr. Nielsen: —illustrates their complete ignorance of the subject matter with which we are dealing. The fact of the matter is that the flights which have been made by members of this Government this year as compared with the last year of the Liberal administration are down almost 40 per cent.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT INQUIRY BE INSTITUTED INTO USE OF TWO JET PLANES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF ONE PERSON

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of National Defence personally give this House the assurance that he will enquire into this matter, a coincidence that cost the Canadian taxpayer \$11,000 to have two jets for one person?

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not have to conduct an inquiry to inform the hon. gentleman that training flights are conducted by our Armed Forces with the whole range of its aircraft throughout the world, not just in the United States and Canada. This was a regular training mission which was in that part of the country. I do not know why the hon. gentleman does not do a little homework and bone up on these things so that he can become familiar with them.

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[Translation]

FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY**INQUIRY IF PRIME MINISTER REGRETS PROMISE MADE AT SHERBROOKE CONCERNING QUOTAS**

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. After his extensive reply, any Canadian would want a frank and forthright Government in this country. After the decision made last week regarding quotas in the footwear industry, is the Prime Minister going to say he regrets the promise he made on May 4 of last year, in Sherbrooke? Does the Prime Minister regret his promise?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 1984, we made a statement which was an accurate reflection of our philosophy and our policies. On June 14, a few weeks later, the Liberal Government instructed the Canadian Import Tribunal to review an agency whose members were appointed by the Liberal Government, and instruc-