Oral Questions

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR TABLING COPY OF AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC ON RURAL HOUSING

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Given his affirmative answer, could the minister table a document enabling hon. members to read the agreement which was signed with the province of Quebec and could he also tell us what amount of money is made available for the implementation of this program?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to supply that information.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT FIVE PER CENT CEILING ON GROWTH—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. In view of his pending visit to Puerto Rico, to attend a meeting of the heads of state of certain states, and in view of the OECD tentative understanding that member countries should accept a 5 per cent per annum ceiling on growth for the balance of this decade, would the Prime Minister indicate what position he intends to take on this important subject in Puerto Rico, bearing in mind that we have much higher unemployment in Canada than exists in most OECD countries and that, if we are not permitted to grow at a faster than 5 per cent growth rate, there is little likelihood of our being able to materially lower our jobless level in the country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we will attempt to grow at the optimum rate, from the Canadian point of view, regardless of what was said in any other place.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister to do with his attendance in Puerto Rico? As Canada's population and work force is growing at a faster rate than is the case in most OECD countries, does the Prime Minister intend, in Puerto Rico, to make it clear that we need a higher than 5 per cent per annum growth rate to even keep level with other countries on a per capita basis?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that is precisely the question the Prime Minister just answered.

[Mr. Danson.]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ON EFFECT OF AEROSOL SPRAY ON OZONE—SUGGESTION MINISTER CORRECT HIS ANSWER

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of the Environment? Yesterday I asked the hon. gentleman if he would care to correct the misleading impression he left earlier concerning the U.S. Academy of Science, when he said, and I quote:

[Translation]

... made a study and came to the conclusion that nothing proved that the use of aerosol sprays could cause damages . . .

[English]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That's the result of some weeks of Berlitz.

Mr. Jarvis: Since the minister did not take advantage of the opportunity I gave him yesterday to correct the misleading impression he left with the House on Monday concerning the state of scientific opinion with regard to the destruction of the atmosphere ozone layer, will he now admit that his original statement regarding the conclusions of the academy was in error, and will he take the opportunity to correct the impression he left on Monday?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, what I said in substance is absolutely true. I have the confirmation of the department. It has not been proved scientifically that the atmosphere's ozone layer has now so deteriorated that it puts people's lives in danger.

Now, a study was made by the U.S. Academy of Science, the report of which has not been published yet. I simply read the information published in Canadian and American newspapers, which confirms the opinion of my department that nothing shows right now that we are in danger, but that this could eventually happen if we do not take whatever action is necessary to prevent an increase in atmospheric pollution.

[English]

SOURCE OF REPORT TO MINISTER ON EFFECT OF AEROSOL SPRAY ON OZONE

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): When the minister referred yesterday to a report that he had received from his department, was he referring to a report from the National Academy of Science or was it an interdepartmental report? If it was the latter, can he indicate the source of that report leading to the conclusion he has just drawn? What is the source of that report and who is its author?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, it is a communication I received from my department. People who work on that kind of pollution, scientists, tell me that an interdepartmental committee composed of representatives of the Department of the Environment, the Department of Transport, the National