

Oral Questions

tion is discussing selling Canadair and de Havilland to Messerschmitt of Germany? If that is correct, why is the Canada Development Investment Corporation chairman, according to a report in *The Globe and Mail*, not looking for a commitment for "a specific level of jobs"?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm any ongoing negotiations. As my hon. friend would know, having served in high government office, questions of this magnitude are negotiated and dealt with, with various proposals on the table. I do not think he would really expect me to confirm or deny whether there are any ongoing negotiations.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. If the reports are correct, and they are apparently based on a visit paid recently by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion to the Premier of Bavaria, Mr. Strauss, the chairman of Airbus Industrie, I would like the Prime Minister to explain why the Government is not willing to keep Canadair and de Havilland, the technology they developed, and the jobs they provide under Canadian public ownership, but instead is willing to sell them to Messerschmitt of Germany, a company that has a substantial degree of state ownership, or to Airbus Industrie, a consortium of European companies, most or all of which are also publicly owned?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not know why my hon. friend would jump to the conclusion that he has, and assert that as a matter of fact when it is no such thing. In his first question he referred to it as an allegation in *The Globe and Mail*. In his second question, it is a statement of fact that the Government is confirming its intention to do so. There have been no such transactions concluded. Negotiations continue with a number of interested parties, Canadian, North American, and European. At an appropriate time, when the Minister returns and a proper evaluation has been made and submitted to Cabinet, we will be delighted to inform the Hon. Member and the House.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): CDIC has confirmed these discussions are under way—his own Crown corporation.

Mr. Mulroney: Not our own Crown corporation; your Crown corporation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

● (1200)

RIGHT HON. JOHN G. DIEFENBAKER

PROPOSED STATUE ON PARLIAMENT HILL

Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Public Works I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Last night I had the pleasure of speaking to a Private Member's Motion which was initiated by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Browes). I am very pleased to say that that motion was passed unanimously. The motion was for the raising of a statue of the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker placed on Parliament Hill.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister when we might expect to see some initiatives taken on that motion. I would also like to ask that consideration be given to inviting a Saskatchewan artist to design that statue.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to hear of the unanimous passing of the motion proposing the establishment of that kind of a memorial to the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker, who served this House and country with such outstanding distinction.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I know that all Members of the House would want an appropriate memorial raised. Given Mr. Diefenbaker's background, a Saskatchewan artist would be appropriate. We will be happy to look into the suggestion and report back to the House.

* * *

CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS IN WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petition presented by the Hon. Member for Westmorland-Kent (Mr. Robichaud) on Thursday, February 28, 1985 meets the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

RIGHT TO RECEIVE RELIGIOUS TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Mr. Speaker: The petition presented by the Hon. Member for Peace River (Mr. Cooper) on Thursday, February 28, 1985, does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)