

Oral Questions

program to offset this tragic loss of productivity and human loss in real terms which these figures mean.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member himself said his question was a plea rather than a question.

* * *

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTING MATANE TELEVISION STATION

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Iles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State.

In view of the fact that the CBC decision to purchase private station CJBR-TV of Rimouski should in no way hinder the expansion of its Matane station and its extension to the Gaspé peninsula, could the Secretary of State ask the CBC to provide more funds to its Matane station so that it may cover important events, such as the conference given by the Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé) at the Gaspé Board of Trade last week, with a better camera than a Polaroid?

[English]

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of what arrangements are to be made in relation to Rimouski and Matane is still under consideration.

* * *

TRANSPORT

FAILURE OF OWNERS OF THE "LOWELL THOMAS EXPLORER" TO PAY WAGES TO CREW—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister's attention been brought to the situation in Montreal in which the ship, the *Lowell Thomas Explorer*, which is carrying cargo between Canadian ports on the seaway, which is registered under Philippine registry and which is operated by Philippine seamen, is tied up in that city by a court order because the company has failed to pay its crew members their wages for February and March, despite the fact that the company—and Canada—is a signatory to the ITF wage agreement? If the minister is aware of this, what does his department intend to do about it?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the matter was brought to my attention, and I asked that it be looked into to see if there is any action I should be taking.

Mr. Orlikow: Would the minister look into the charge that the company is applying pressure on its employees to drop their claims and threatening to repatriate them and to bring in a new crew from the Philippines?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. McGrath.]

HEALTH

APPLICATION OF RED CROSS TO SET UP BLOOD FRACTIONATION PLANT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister tell the House whether at the federal-provincial meeting of deputy ministers last week a decision was made with regard to the application of the Red Cross to set up a blood fractionation plant?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the federal-provincial conference of deputy ministers never makes decisions. It is only authorized to make recommendations to the ministers who will be called upon to make a decision at the end of June.

* * *

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LACK OF NAVAL ARCHITECTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Last evening Admiral Falls informed the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence that the navy no longer has the capacity to produce the designs for the next generation of Canadian warships since naval architects were let go due to cutbacks in defence spending. Will the minister assure the House that the \$75 million worth of design work for new ships will go to Canadian naval architects and, in view of the current manpower shortage in maritime command, will the minister increase the over-all strength of maritime command. If so, to what levels?

• (1450)

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I believe two questions were asked with respect to design capacity. We believe it exists in the private sector. It was formerly "in house", but now exists almost totally in the private sector. That design capacity will be used wherever possible. The hon. member also asked a question about maritime command. We have an indicated need for additional manpower in that area, particularly in the high seas trades, and I am considering this question seriously at present.

* * *

MANPOWER

REASON FOR REFUSAL TO PUBLISH FORECASTS OF UNEMPLOYMENT LEVELS IN PROVINCES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration regarding his intended cover up policy which shows a complete disregard for the rights and interests of the prov-