Oral Questions

analyses have been initiated but we are not in a position to report on direct implications for certain types of operations. Obviously, certain types of operations are more affected than others because they require a larger consumption of electric energy.

For the second part of the question asked by the hon. member, as he is aware, budget cuts apply to all departments. It goes without saying that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is also affected because there are great needs. If more funds were available, we certainly could undertake more projects in cooperation with the private sector and provincial governments. For the time being, however, I think that we should cut our expenses and be prepared to make a better selection of projects submitted in order to maximize the return on investments.

• (1500)

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY WHETHER MR. GRANDY RECOMMENDED PURCHASE OF LOCKHEED "ORION"

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Yesterday, referring to Mr. Grandy, the minister said that he was not sure on which committee he sat. He presumed that Mr. Grandy must have had some contact with discussions which were taking place. That was to be expected, in view of the position he held. Can the minister tell the House, precisely and definitely, if James Grandy recommended to cabinet ministers, the committee of cabinet or the project team the purchase of the Lockheed Orion?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. I pointed out that the recommendation to purchase the Lockheed Orion was made by the Department of National Defence, and made by me to cabinet.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. That, precisely, is why I asked the minister the question. I want to know if James Grandy recommended the purchase of the Orion to the project team or any committee of ministers. I know that the minister himself must recommend to cabinet. Did Mr. Grandy make any recommendation to the project team?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, in his capacity as deputy minister, he was not on the project team. I do not know of any recommendation he may or may not have made.

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—REQUEST FOR NAMES OF COMMITTEES OF WHICH MR. GRANDY WAS MEMBER

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in the House, and again today, the minister implied that Mr. Grandy sat on some committees. Can he tell the House precisely on which committees Mr. Grandy sat?

[Mr. Lessard.]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot. Mr. Grandy in those days was deputy minister; he was not a consultant. I think he was doing his duty as a deputy minister. I do not know all the committees on which he sat.

Mr. Yewchuk: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I intended raising certain matters as a question of privilege, but the information came to me too late and I could not give Your Honour appropriate notice. I now inform you that I intend to raise these matters tomorrow as a question of privilege. One involves disparaging remarks made by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway about members of parliament who happen to be medical doctors; the other, a charge of conflict of interest involving Tory members made by a CTV newsman, Eric Malling. I intend to raise these matters on a question of privilege tomorrow as such comments affect the ability to do our job as members of parliament.

Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I know that ministers are given the right not to answer questions. In the interest of the safety of the air travellers of Canada, I want to be sure that the minister heard the question I asked him about air safety, and chose not to answer.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, if I may speak on the same point of order, I assure the hon. member that I heard his question. It seemed to me that because of the terms in which it was couched it neither needed, nor deserved, an answer. If he had asked a serious question I would have been glad to consider it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Such arrogance.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order relating to the order or direction which the Minister of Justice has given, and I do this as a courtesy to him. He referred to a witness who is material to the order, Sylvia McCauley. At one time that was her maiden name. She is now known as Sylvia Novick, sometimes known as Mr. Kovack. I hope that no technical difficulties will arise because her name is now Mrs. Novick and not McCauley, alias Le Tendress. I hope that will not affect the order.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's courtesy in raising the matter. The name used is the name at the time of trial. I will check with my officers to make sure that the point creates no impediment to the matter. If it does, I shall correct the order.