

● (1430)

Mr. McGrath: In view of the prospect of this plant having to close down, albeit for a short time, say two years, what plans does the government have to find alternative employment for the 500 employees, many of whom are the minister's own constituents?

Mr. Jamieson: This is one of the matters I discussed with some of the workers concerned over the weekend. It was only, I believe, on Friday that the government of Newfoundland suggested the establishment of a federal-provincial task force. I indicated at that time that we would be quite prepared to co-operate in the establishment of some group through which we could determine what alternative sources of employment might exist. I want to say, however, in fairness and honesty to the workers in the area—and the hon. member will, I think, appreciate this—that finding four or five hundred additional jobs will not be the easiest thing in the world to do in the short run. But we will certainly do what we can.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INQUIRY AS TO FREE VOTE IN CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BILL

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. I addressed a question in his absence to the Solicitor General concerning the proposed government bill to abolish capital punishment. I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the answer given by the Solicitor General, as reported in *Hansard* at page 10,870 represents government policy. The hon. gentleman said:

There will be a government bill to which the government will be committed but members of this House who are not with the government will be free to vote on it as they see fit.

Is that the free vote the government proposes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The whips will not be on for the purpose of this vote.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put a second question to the Prime Minister? In light of the fact that the cabinet will not have a free vote—only backbenchers will have a free vote—how does the right hon. gentleman reconcile this situation with a free vote? Because that sounds about as free as a hog on ice.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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INDUSTRY

DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT—POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING LAY-OFFS

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and it relates to a recent statement by officials of the United Auto Workers' Union with reference to Douglas Aircraft. Is it true that the federal government will provide financial

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assistance which will permit the company to postpone lay-offs indefinitely? How long is "indefinitely", and how will this work?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): If I had the answer to all those questions I would be a very happy man. The position at the moment is that there was a proposal by McDonnell-Douglas to post lay-off notices affecting between 400 and 500 workers on Friday of last week. I met with officials of the company and as a result they agreed to postpone those lay-off notices indefinitely. As to how long "indefinitely" is, it is exactly what the word says. We are not sure. In the interim we are trying to find additional work for the plant in Toronto which will help, at least, to prevent these lay-offs taking place.

I undertook to try to get some answers within the coming week. We are looking at a number of solutions which may appeal to the company and which may lend themselves at least to giving us enough time, perhaps a year, in which to determine what role, if any, the company might play in the restructuring of the aerospace industry.

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PERFORMING ARTS

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF QUOTA AGREEMENTS ON DISTRIBUTION OF FILMS AND REPORT ON MONITORING OF QUOTA

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State and it concerns the film policy announced last August with application to the major film chains, Odeon and Famous Players. The minister indicated at that time that performance with respect to the quotas would be monitored and the results published regularly by CFTC. May I ask when we can expect to see some figures published as to the effectiveness of this new quota system? Can the minister tell us, also, when the actual contracts or agreements were signed and when they will be made public?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): The contracts themselves are still under negotiation. I hope the negotiations will be concluded this week. The monitoring of the quota is in place and I believe published results will be available on a quarterly basis, but I would have to confirm that impression.

POSSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATION OF FILM DISTRIBUTORS BY COMBINES BRANCH

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the action recently taken by some of the major Canadian film makers—Pierre Berton, F. R. Crawley, Allan King, Gordon Pinsent and a number of others with a view to getting a combines investigation launched by way of a formal petition to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs with respect to the monopoly situation which prevails in the exhibition of films in this country, may I ask whether the minister has conferred with his counterpart on this subject and whether he has taken any appropriate action