

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to convey those representations to the Minister of Finance.

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### HEALTH

#### POSSIBLE STUDIES OF WORKERS EXPOSED TO CANCER-CAUSING CONTAMINANTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the galloping increase in lung cancer and the jungle of confusion in certain grey areas which points out the very urgent need for a thorough epidemiological study of Canadian uranium miners as well as other workers who are exposed to cancer-causing contaminants, I should like to ask the minister whether studies on this frightful problem are underway in his department.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, we have been following this issue very closely. We have been supporting over the years through medical research various research projects. This is an area of serious concern, but as the hon. member indicated, unfortunately at the present time there would still appear to be conflicting views among scientists with regard to the exact situation. I can only hope that further study and research in the future will clarify the situation.

● (1430)

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister if there are any statistical studies to date indicating more than one contaminant that might cause lung cancer, such as how many of those people were cigarette smokers and for how long.

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I shall study the question and find out from the department whether we have made recent statistical studies which answer the question of the hon. member. I shall be happy to send him the information requested if my department has made those studies.

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[English]

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### COMPLAINT OF GENERAL ROHMER CONCERNING GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE—MEANS OF REGULATING USE OF NORTHWEST PASSAGE BY U.S. TANKERS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that the minister promoted Richard Rohmer to the rank of brigadier general in the reserves and named him air reserve adviser, does the minister have plans to rectify his complaint made last night in Guelph, Ontario, that Ottawa has little interest in the military?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to look at

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what General Rohmer had to say because he is a very competent officer.

Mr. Hees: And he knows what he is talking about.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Rohmer claims that the U.S.A. is building a fleet of giant tankers to take oil from its reserves in Alaska through the Northwest Passage to the east coast without consulting Canada. If this is true, how does the minister plan to regulate the passage of these ships when Canada presently does not have any Arctic icebreakers?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that we have complete surveillance of that area.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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### TRADE

#### SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—INQUIRY AS TO SAFEGUARDS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the announcement made yesterday by the minister confirming the sale to South Korea of a CANDU reactor and the arrangement of a \$300 million loan with EDC, will the minister advise the House whether any reassessment was made of the risks inherent in this sale of adding South Korea to the nuclear club in view of what many in South Korea now view as a new strategic situation following the withdrawal of the United States from South Viet Nam?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I explained, in announcing the signing of the Export Development Corporation loan, that it was conditional upon appropriate safeguards being worked out and signed bilaterally between Canada and the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Leggatt: Would the minister please advise the House first of all whether he will table the proposed bilateral agreement together with the terms of the loan interest, etc. and also would he advise whether that agreement contains any sanctions or penalties in the event of the default in the future to comply with Canadian safeguards, and if, in the event of an emergency, South Korea diverted plutonium from the CANDU reactor to manufacture nuclear explosives, what sanctions does Canada have to enforce that bilateral contract?

Mr. Gillespie: I indicated in my first answer that this matter is under consideration at present. It is under negotiation at present and those negotiations are not yet completed.