

[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, today a delegation of Cree and Inuit from Great Whale River are in Ottawa. In a boat they built for the occasion, they will journey to New York City to protest the James Bay II hydroelectric project which would flood 5,000 square kilometres of land, contaminate water and fish with mercury, damage marine mammals and migratory birds, and hurt the economy and lifestyle of Cree and Inuit people in northern Quebec.

Following the federal court's decision on the Oldman dam, the federal government should exercise its powers and hold public hearings before it is too late. This government must start practising what it preaches on sustainable development. Federal public hearings to study the environmental and social impacts of James Bay II are a must!

We do not want to see the Canadian northern environment destroyed to feed the insatiable energy demands of south of the border.

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SOVIET JEWRY

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, today the Jewish Students' Network and NAHON, a group of 200 students from all across Canada are in Ottawa for their annual lobby day.

The group, led by Stephen Granovsky, Dan Ronen and Pam Scheininger are meeting with many members of the House of Commons. This year there is an urgent call for action due to the large backlog of Soviet Jews seeking to have exit visas and the recent rise in anti-Semitism.

Recently, we heard of the suspension by Hungarian airlines of all flights to Israel due to threats of terrorism by various extremist pro-Arab groups.

The Government of Canada has always supported the cause of Soviet Jewry and I, as chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Group for Soviet Jewry, along with all members of this House, call on the Government of the Soviet Union to speed up the process of emigration by permitting direct passage of Jews to Israel and to exploit all possible safe exit routes to the Jewish homeland.

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I commend the work of Network and NAHON for bringing this issue to the House of Commons and to the people of Canada and I join with them in renewing our pledge to the Jewish people of the Soviet Union.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, the fish process workers at Cape Breton feel betrayed. They were told that the situation at the Cape Breton fish plants was not going to be that bad. First, they were told that in addition to the saltfish operation, North Sydney would have the overflow fish from Louisbourg. This was going to mean that the wet fish operation was going to be able to continue in North Sydney.

Now National Sea states that it is going to close Louisbourg from the end of July until November, three months. What overflow is there going to be now for the people in North Sydney? The fish plant operators in Cape Breton are very concerned about further lay-offs adding to the already bad work situation on Cape Breton Island. The fish plant workers are going to Halifax to protest and they ask the government to make it known to National Sea to come clean with the workers, to give them some security, to stand by their word and not change their minds from day to day and to provide the fish plant workers in Cape Breton with fair treatment so that they can get on with their lives and raise their families accordingly.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, prairie farmers are in a desperate economic plight. Their livelihoods are being ravaged as the result of unfair grain export subsidies by the Europeans and the Americans. Everyone agrees that an emergency aid package of at least \$500 million is urgently required if farmers are to be able to seed this year's crops.

Yesterday, prairie agriculture ministers met to discuss this crisis. They indicated that the emergency aid package is a federal responsibility because the causes of the immediate problem arise from an international situation over which the provincial governments have no influence.