

Resignation

It is very important for voluntary groups like Friends of the Earth and Pollution Probe to be able to participate in the environmental hearing process. I hope the Government will soon make it clear to them that it will live up to that commitment and that the review board that has the responsibility for administering the money will be forthcoming with the funding.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PRESIDENT'S AND VICE-PRESIDENTS' TRIP TO CHINA

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke about the alleged cuts being claimed by CBC President, Pierre Juneau. The same week that he announced the elimination of 350 jobs, 122 hours of original Canadian programming, and 1,000 hours of regional television, he embarked on a 10-day trip to Communist China. He must be lonely, though, because he has taken not one, not two, but three senior vice-presidents with him. He claims it is to explore the potential for an export market for Canadian programming.

● (1415)

I agree we should attempt to sell Canadian programming abroad, but I question the wisdom of sending four of the Corporation's top officials abroad at a cost of \$5,200 each for return air fare, while at the same time giving 350 CBC employees the golden handshake.

This effort to sell Canadian programming abroad is hardly consistent with the latest cut-backs in Canadian programming he announced before he left. The Canadian taxpayers deserve better treatment than this.

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VACANCY

PEMBINA—PETER ELZINGA, BY RESIGNATION

Mr. Speaker: I have received a communication advising me of the following vacancy which has occurred in the representation, namely, Peter Elzinga, Esq., Member for the electoral district of Pembina, by resignation. Accordingly, I have addressed my warrant to the Chief Electoral Officer for the issue of a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES-LIBYA CONFRONTATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister left him to meet with the American envoy with respect to Libya. We received from the Prime Minister a totally vague statement on the Libyan crisis and the Canadian reaction to it. He refused to answer questions from reporters after making that statement. He was vague yesterday in Question Period. Despite the potential effect on the peace of the world, he did not show up last night to participate in the debate. He is not here again today when we have persistent questions—

Some Hon. Members: Order.**An Hon. Member:** Coward.**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Was the Deputy Prime Minister speaking last night on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government when he said that it was his view that the Americans had no alternative but to launch the strike against Libya? If that is so, and he was speaking on behalf of the Government, why did the Prime Minister not say so earlier in the day?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Well now, let us look at the other side of that, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister on behalf of the Government issued a statement late Monday evening. The Prime Minister issued a statement again yesterday morning. The Prime Minister was in the House open to a broad range of questions yesterday.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): You took the questions.**Mr. Gauthier:** He didn't take the questions.

Mr. Nielsen: And he again saw the media as recently as this morning. There is no inconsistency, indeed there is utter consistency, in what he has been saying as Prime Minister of the country and what I have been saying on behalf of the Government.

[Translation]

LIBYA—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. If the Prime Minister were here, we would be asking the following questions and I will therefore put them to the Deputy Prime Minister. Did the Prime Minister speak directly to the President of the United