

ate steps he took . . . if you are not interested I can simply not say anything more.

[English]

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, obviously the Minister does not realize that the trailer was travelling from Quebec all the way to Alberta and, therefore, there is a responsibility which goes well beyond the responsibility of one single provincial Minister of the Environment. What action, if any, does the Minister intend to take? Is she going to take any more interest in this matter of toxic substances than in acid rain? She failed to attend an international, high level meeting last weekend in Quebec City. Neither she nor the envoy on acid rain took the trouble to attend. What action is she going to take with regard to toxic substances?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will reply to both questions, including the one which was an accusation. I could not possibly attend the Quebec City meeting on acid rain since I was in Sweden to meet with my counterparts and getting information on the way they protect their environment.

As to the measures taken, it is a matter of co-operation between the federal Government and the province, and as a former Minister, the Hon. Member knows very well that the first steps must be taken by the province. The provincial Department has kept me informed about what has been done so far, and today I was in touch with the office of Minister Kells.

* * *

[English]

INDUSTRY

PORT CARTIER PULP AND PAPER MILL

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. I believe the Minister knows that a report came out last week that strongly stressed the need to expand our economy to get people back to work through community initiatives, and to get greater corporate accountability in our country. I want to ask the Minister about a specific case which demonstrates vividly the problems that come up when corporate accountability is not there. What is the Minister prepared to do about the case of ITT Rayonier in Port Cartier which, despite the strong claims from that community, is dismantling the pulp and paper mill within that community? Would he intervene personally and see to it that a different direction is taken which meets the needs of that community?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member, that

Oral Questions

case is of course being reviewed by our Department, but at this time we have no statement to make.

SINGLE INDUSTRY COMMUNITIES—DIVERSIFICATION FUND RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, no statement, when 2,000 jobs and \$130 million worth of Canadian Government or federal-provincial investment are involved in a project, is surely inexcusable. Does the Minister not believe that this case demonstrates clearly one of the points we made in our action group this past week that single industry communities need a diversification fund to give them a chance to develop other kinds of industrial activities so that they are not so dependent upon a single industry?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the question relates to my constituency—

[Translation]

—I can tell the Hon. Member that I worked earnestly with a group of private investors to attract . . . Yes, but what can you expect! I see Hon. Members of the Liberal Party are smiling. It was under the Liberal Government that the Port Cartier mill went under, the Liberals were in office when that happened. They find that funny. The people of Quebec will see that the Liberals find that funny today. Well, I certainly do not find that funny, nor does the NDP Member, and I thank him for his assistance. I went to my riding last week and told the people: either we attract private investors who were turned down when the Liberals were in office, or we will put federal facilities in the city of Port Cartier to make sure that Port Cartier and the riding of Manicouagan pull through.

* * *

[English]

REFUGEES

COMPOSITION OF REFUGEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Last week all Canadians were saddened to learn that one of the country's most outstanding citizens, the former Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, Florence Bird, had been denied re-appointment on the refugee advisory committee in a "Dear Flo" letter that she received from the Minister. Can the Minister tell this House what possible reason she had to refuse this reappointment, recognizing the proven skills, competence, and experience of the individual in question?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the communication that was sent to Mrs. Bird indeed conveyed my deepest regard for the contribution that she has