

Oral Questions

My question is: What factor will this play in the decision by the minister and the government on whether or not to proceed with that refinery and dump project at Port Granby? Is this a binding recommendation on the government, or is it not? What is going to happen now to Eldorado's application to proceed?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I think the hon. member has noted that the recommendation to which he referred was provided in the form of a press release, not a report, so I think it would be premature for me or anybody on this side to speculate about that particular report until it has been received. The hon. member asks whether or not it is binding. I think he knows that the environmental review process is one involving a recommendation on the part of the particular committee. I see the hon. member is making a recommendation that the government should overrule one of the significant recommendations of the environmental review panel.

Mr. Lawrence: No, sir, in no way is the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham making that recommendation. I think the minister should read his mail again. The Minister of State for the Environment previously gave the people of Port Hope and the surrounding area to understand that any recommendation coming from that panel would be considered by him to be binding. That is a statement of general governmental policy, and I think it is a very important one because this is the first time such a panel has come out with a negative recommendation.

What is the sense of having these hearings and having panels do that type of work unless the government is going to pay strict attention to them? Is it a matter of government policy, and is this the major factor in the government's decision on whether to proceed, or is it not? That is a simple enough question.

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member for Northumberland-Durham issued a press release yesterday, dated March 1, in which he specifically recommended, if I understand him correctly from reading the press release, that the refinery should be built at Port Granby.

Mr. Lawrence: No, in the Port Hope area. There is a difference.

Mr. Gillespie: The environmental review process and the panel, as I understand it, have rejected that.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I am seriously misinterpreted. There is a difference between Port Granby and Port Hope. There is an existing agency in Port Hope which belongs to the minister's department. It is quite different from Port Granby. I hate to interpret the minister's own agencies to him, but the minister's panel was referring to Port Granby. It is a matter of government policy whether or not these matters are going to be decided. Can the minister tell us whether it is government policy, when these environmental panels make recommendations, to consider them seriously?

[Mr. Lawrence.]

Mr. Gillespie: That has been made very clear in the past by colleagues who are responsible for this area. But I would bring to the hon. member's attention and to the attention of the House that the only application before the environmental review panel was with respect to Port Granby. I have to acknowledge that that is in the Port Hope area, but there is no other application for the Port Hope area. So the hon. member is obviously playing with words when he says to me that he is prepared to go along with it, but he wants it right beside the place specified in the application.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT CEASE SUBSIDIZING LA
FÉDÉRATION DES FRANCOPHONES HORS-QUÉBEC

Mr. Jean-R. Roy (Timmins): Mr. Speaker, following the publication of the report dated October 20 and submitted to Quebec Minister Claude Morin by the Fédération des Francophones hors-Québec to invite the government of that province to take part in the underhand arrangement concerning the French-speaking minority groups of Canada, is the minister prepared to cut immediately all subsidies to this non-representative organization and, if not, what steps does he intend to take to protect the French-speaking minorities of Canada against the misleading proposals of the FFHQ that we, as the majority among these minorities, denounce and will keep denouncing?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker. I am always ready to co-operate with every representative of French-speaking groups outside Quebec. We are open to co-operation and I sincerely hope that the Fédération des Francophones will try to join us to discuss all possible ways to reach our common objectives. I understand the concern of the hon. member but if there are French-speaking people outside Quebec who do not agree with the strategy of the Fédération, it is the responsibility of the members of the association themselves to settle this dispute in a democratic way in front of the Francophone federation.

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● (1502)

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

BUGGING OF MPs OFFICES—GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE OF
WARREN HART CASE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General, but since he is with the Prime Minister I will direct it to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell the House how many members of parliament, in addition to a former solicitor general and the hon. member for