

Oral Questions

and the other reporting a very angry letter from a member of the Canadian communist party at the time. Therefore, to imply that these tests were held in secret is wrong.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. It appears from the answers of the parliamentary secretary today that the Department of National Defence is still conducting tests. How could she have said yesterday, when referring to this incident and speaking for the government, that these tests were not harmful to human life, if today the details are such that we do not know what the tests contained?

I should like to ask the Prime Minister, as well, by whose request these tests were conducted: were they requested by Canadian authorities or by U.S. authorities, and who authorized these tests?

Mrs. Appolloni: Because of the last few remarks of the hon. member, I am tempted to feel that there is some sexist bias in the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Appolloni: If that is the case, Madam Speaker, I should like to remind hon. members that another lady in history, a little before my time, made quite a splash in her national defence at the time of the Spanish armada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Appolloni: By a strange coincidence, she also had red hair.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Appolloni: In answer to the hon. member for Provencher, I repeat what I said yesterday. Unfortunately, it appears that pharmacologists, perhaps just as much as economists, do not always agree with each other. The report that we have so far at the Department of National Defence is that, in effect, this substance was not harmful to human life. I repeat, studies are still under way, because my department is nothing if not thorough.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp: Madam Speaker, I want to indicate to the parliamentary secretary that I am trying to get information and I have no interest in sexist bias which she has charged. I should like to ask, further, whether the Government of Canada has responded to the telex from the minister of the environment for the province of Manitoba in which he asked for full details to be sent to him immediately they become known to the department.

An hon. Member: That is what we always do.

Mr. Epp: We are in the habit of talking to the provinces, though you might not be.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp: I should like to ask whether the parliamentary secretary or officials of the department have responded to the minister of the environment for Manitoba. Further, can the parliamentary secretary tell us whether any other Canadian cities were used for tests? Finally, could she tell us when this information will be made available, in view of the requests she has had from the province of Manitoba?

Mrs. Appolloni: Madam Speaker, instead of just speaking to the people of Winnipeg or any other part of Manitoba, I think we on this side prefer to assure them that there is no great danger, so as not to have them worried as they are.

The second point I should like to make, Madam Speaker, is that these tests took place some 27 years ago. Many of the people who were alive at that time have since retired or, unfortunately—

Some hon. Members: Are dead.

An hon. Member: Say it.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Appolloni: If the opposition really wants to get some facts, they have to listen; I am sorry. Many of the people—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Appolloni: —involved in the tests at that time have since retired or, unfortunately, for other reasons, have passed away.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1440)

Mrs. Appolloni: It is a sad commentary on life that we all have to go somehow.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Appolloni: Under all these circumstances, I think the fact that my department was able to respond so quickly yesterday was yet another proof of the tremendous vitality, speed and efficiency of the Department of National Defence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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PARKS CANADA

CANCELLATION OF PROPOSED RELOCATION OF REGIONAL OFFICE FROM CORNWALL TO PETERBOROUGH

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. If the cancellation