

S. O. 21

I would like to point out that more than 450 businesses have already said they will attend, and I also would like to say that those who are interested may be registered locally with the federal Government's central file.

As the Member for Québec Est, I am anxious to make suppliers, both in my riding and Quebec City aware of federal purchasing requirements. My Government appreciates regional input, and the department's visit cannot be other than beneficial to the business community. The more the Government buys in our region, the more we have to produce and the more jobs we will create and preserve. Mr. Speaker, I am sure you will agree this is an excellent initiative.

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[English]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

INVITATION TO PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA TO APPEAR BEFORE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACID RAIN

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Premier of Nova Scotia, Mr. John Buchanan, is going to refuse the invitation of the Special Committee on Acid Rain to appear before it to explain why Nova Scotia is the only province of those which were committed to entering into an acid rain abatement agreement with the federal Government which has yet to do so.

We should all realize that the fact that Nova Scotia has not yet come to an agreement with the federal Government is a blight upon the Canadian record. We want to be able to say to Americans, whom we want to act on acid rain, that Canada has its federal-provincial act together with respect to acid rain. Nova Scotia holding out in the way that it is is jeopardizing the Canadian position in this regard.

The committee only wanted Premier Buchanan, if he has justifiable reasons for holding out, to explain those reasons to the committee. His colleague, the Premier of New Brunswick, did that and I do not think it did him any harm. I think Premier Buchanan should reconsider his refusal and come before the Special Committee on Acid Rain on behalf of Nova Scotia.

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HEALTH

PRESENCE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS IN NORTHERN FISH AND
ARCTIC SEA MAMMALS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the distribution of chemical residues is a world-wide problem.

Recently a Yellowknife conference was told of the presence of organochlorine compounds and alarmingly high concentrations of toxaphene, a now banned chemical formerly used in Texas cotton fields, found in fish livers from the lower Mackenzie River.

In addition, PCBs, DDT and other harmful substances have been discovered in the fatty tissues of sea mammals in the Arctic Ocean which, of course, is a source of food for the local inhabitants. Although the levels are generally lower than those considered to be dangerous to human life, these problems cannot be ignored. The Departments of Health and Welfare, Fisheries and Oceans, and the Environment, are to be complimented on their work to date and urged to continue with yet more diligence so that dangers to health might be averted.

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● (1405)

THE MEDIA

INACCURATE REFLECTION OF MEMBER'S VIEWS ON SOLIDARITY
IN POLAND

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, a Canadian Press story today regarding my recent visit to Hungary, Poland, and East Germany is not a fair and accurate reflection of my views of these eastern bloc countries.

The story says that, in my view, support for the trade union Solidarity is mainly from "Polish yuppies". This is simply not accurate.

In fact, I found that while support for Solidarity appears to have diminished since martial law was lifted in December, 1982, the movement continues to have widespread support in Poland in spite of the fact that it is outlawed.

The article erroneously leaves a negative impression of my views of Solidarity. While some people suggested Solidarity was not as relevant as it was in the past, in my view it has been and will continue to be the driving force behind the democratization and economic reform of Poland. Solidarity epitomizes the struggle of the Polish people for freedom and the recognition of human rights.

I have the greatest admiration and respect for Polish people and I am pleased with the direction in which the Polish Government is moving.

In this respect, I support the position that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has taken, that even though the Government of Poland is more liberal than one might expect, the Government of Canada still has an important role to play in encouraging greater economic and political freedom.