

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, November 7, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE URGED

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the effects of acid rain on our lakes, fisheries, forests, and monuments are of great concern to Canadians, and rightfully so. Thus far the meeting between the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and President Reagan, followed by the meeting between the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and his American counterpart in Washington, have failed to produce the results promised by the Prime Minister.

We on the Liberal side of this House urge the Government to intensify its efforts, but also to show that we are determined to reach the goal of cutting emissions from smoke stacks and cars in Canada. Therefore I urge the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) to continue to work in co-operation with the provinces, as initiated by the Liberal Government, and to convene as soon as possible a meeting with the provincial environmental Ministers so as to make further joint progress toward the modernization and clean up of dirty plants in Canada.

Finally, I urge the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) to conclude consultations with industry and the public so as to control automobile emissions which contribute to acid rain.

* * *

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, on September 4, 1984, a sick Canada was delivered into the hands of the Progressive Conservative Party. A diagnosis revealed a country dying under a burden of excessive taxation and a rising debt of billions of dollars. Interest rates were killing investment and forcing farms and businesses into bankruptcy. A million people, including thousands of youths, were unemployed and looking for work but could find none because Canadians with

money were afraid to invest in their own country. They were heading elsewhere, taking their capital and jobs with them.

Ill will between the east and the west, between the English and the French, was festering. The country was breaking apart. Yes, indeed, we found a Canada sick unto death!

The Progressive Conservative Government, believing that a strong and united Canada is again possible, and with honesty, determination and free enterprise as their tools, are tackling the job, not with band-aids and aspirins, but by gradually removing the causes of the illness, by reducing the gigantic debt in an orderly way, thus forcing interest rates down, and by creating a climate of confidence so that thousands of entrepreneurs will invest their capital and hire Canadians.

A sickness which was neglected for ten years cannot be cured overnight, but now complete recovery will gradually take place and we will again have a strong and a united Canada led by a PC Government which represents all parts of the nation under that dedicated Canadian, the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

DISASTERS

CALL FOR INQUIRY INTO WEST COAST FISHING TRAGEDY

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House, and particularly of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier), the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) and the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Coates), that a number of fishermen have died off the west coast of British Columbia in storms at sea because of inadequate weather information provided to those mariners as well as because of inadequate search and rescue coverage of the area.

I would urge the Government to hold a public inquiry into this matter at which testimony and information will be solicited from fishermen and mariners so that the widest possible information will be made available to the Government in order to develop a plan on which to act. I would also urge the Government not to revert to the old ways of the former Liberal Government whereby in-house inquiries were held but very little action was forthcoming on the results.