

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS CHEMICALS**

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday a leak of the highly toxic chemical PCB occurred between Kenora and Vermilion Bay from a tractor trailer carrying this chemical from Montreal to Edmonton for disposal. As you know, this substance has two effects which we are all concerned with damage to the environment, because PCBs in a liquid state persist in the environment and do not break down, and, of course, the harm to human health. Will the Minister of the Environment (Mrs. Blais-Grenier) give leadership, initiate talks with her provincial colleagues, and put pressure on them to have this problem tackled through technological disposal within each province rather than having waste hauled thousands of kilometres across the country to disposal sites?

This matter falls under provincial jurisdiction, but the Minister of the Environment should show leadership by calling a meeting in Ottawa with her provincial colleagues to discuss better management of waste and resolve the problem of trans-provincial shipments of hazardous chemicals.

* * *

[Translation]

WOMEN**SEARCH FOR EQUALITY**

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, April 17, women will take a very important step in their search for equality, for on that day, Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms will come into force.

This section prohibits any discrimination based on sex, among other things, and that is a significant victory for women since it will now be possible to take legal action to uphold their rights.

The Legal Education and Action Fund has been established for that purpose. In a way, this non-profit organization will be used as a means to defend women's rights. It will use the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to help women bring before the courts any case of discrimination against them.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to urge all Hon. Members of the House to wear the "A Date With Equality" button. Wednesday will be a memorable day for all Canadians, women and

S.O. 21

men alike. After all, the best deals are made in an ambience of equality.

* * *

[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**GROWING OF SEMI-DWARF WHEAT**

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, if one were to set in motion a process to study the merits of legalizing the use of marijuana, you would not expect the process to be carried out by someone who had just planted 100 acres of the crop. That would not be logical nor acceptable. So what can we say about a very real and similar case before us regarding the use of unprescribed semi-dwarf wheats? They are not now licensed in Canada because they are of lower quality than current spring wheat varieties. Their being undistinguishable leads inevitably to mixing and the consequent downgrading of Canada's current pre-eminent world position as a most reliable supplier of top quality wheat, wheat which can be blended with domestic wheats of importing countries everywhere.

It is no accident that Canadian granaries are nearly empty at the end of each crop year at a time when American and European stocks have been building. We have consistently offered superior quality, and that quality has been beyond question.

The Government has decided to review the admissibility of the undistinguishable and therefore currently unlicensed varieties, which is its prerogative, but should the job be handled by a man who admitted in this House to growing such varieties? How can the report be deemed to be objective? These varieties cannot now be licensed in Canada or legally imported into Canada. Since the Minister of State for the Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer) has admitted that he is guilty as charged, I urge him to turn over the responsibility for reviewing this matter to someone in a less compromising position, in the interest of maintaining the credibility of this multibillion dollar industry in the eyes of our customers abroad.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS**SOVIET UNION—MINISTER'S REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF POLITICAL PRISONERS**

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) displayed great courage during his recent trip to the Soviet Union when he raised the matter of political prisoners languishing in Soviet labour camps, and in particular the case of Danylo Shumuk, one of many unjustly imprisoned Ukrainians whose families in Canada have been waiting many years to be reunited with them. On behalf of all freedom-loving Canadians concerned with human rights, I convey to the Minister their support, admiration, and pride that the Government of Canada has the