

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has had two weeks now to investigate this particular dossier. Will he indicate to the House today how many South African controlled companies operating in Canada have received government loans, grants, and contracts? Can he give his undertaking in the House today that this practice will cease immediately? When will he stop the posturing and take some real action to fight apartheid in South Africa?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is taking advice, but this question is too important to leave to that Hon. Member.

Ms. Copps: What? That is sexist.

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● (1510)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions among the Parties, and I think you will find agreement for the Minister of the Environment to make a short statement, followed by the usual responses of the spokespersons for the Official Opposition and the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Murphy: We were hoping for his resignation.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the suggestion of the Minister of State. Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap and the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier indicate agreement. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East.

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED REMARKS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. If I understood the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) in his response to an Hon. Member, he suggested that an Hon. Member had no right to ask a question about apartheid.

An Hon. Member: He did not say that.

Ms. Copps: I find that incredibly—

An Hon. Member: Sit down.

Statements by Ministers

Mr. Boudria: He may have said it too fast for you, Barry, but he said it any way.

Mr. Speaker: I am not exactly sure what the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs did say, but I will look at it. It seems to me that that is probably not a question of privilege at this point.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

ELIMINATION OF LEAD IN GASOLINE

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I thank Hon. Members for their consent.

On March 25, 1986, I announced that effective December 31, 1992, the petroleum industry would be required to eliminate lead in gasoline across Canada.

My decision was based on a study conducted for Environment Canada by a blue ribbon panel of scientists under the direction of the Royal Society of Canada. Those experts recommended, among other things, that the Minister of the Environment consider even more stringent controls on leaded gasoline, should future research render such a course advisable.

Since that time new research in the United States and in Australia, and elsewhere has convinced me and the Government of Canada as a whole that lead in the environment poses an even more serious threat to human health, especially among children, than health experts previously thought.

Accordingly, I am announcing today, on behalf of the federal Cabinet, that lead in gasoline will be illegal at all retail outlets across Canada after December 1, 1990. Violators will be subject to very stiff sanctions under the new Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the statement by the Minister which we welcome fails to recognize that it was a Liberal Government that launched in December, 1983 the program of reducing and eventually eliminating lead in gasoline. This Government has now changed its position. Originally, probably yielding to pressures by industry, it decided to choose 1993 as the target year.

We in the Opposition have raised this matter in this House on a number of occasions. As recently as one month ago we called on the Government, on the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), and on the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) to advance to 1990 the deadline for further reduction of lead in gasoline. We are glad, therefore, to see once more that the Government is continuing the work started by preceding Liberal Governments. What strikes us, though, as a bit disturbing is the timing of this announcement. It is