

Order Paper Questions

rant-service station has been serving the local and travelling public effectively since 1948 and that, by proceeding with the demolition of this facility and replacing it with a self-serve gas bar, Petro-Canada will cause a loss of 22 jobs at the end of this week. Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament for such measures as the House may think expedient to take to encourage officials of Petro-Canada to construct or cause others to establish a convenient truck-stop restaurant on the site—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member is taking a bit too much time for a petition. He knows that all that is required is to give the title and maybe a few sentences in explanation of his petition. We will consider that the Hon. Member's petition has been given in the House and filed with the Clerk.

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● (1720)

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 5,006 and 5,262.

[Text]

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Question No. 5,006—Mr. Blenkarn:

1. Did the Government participate in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Botswana between April 19 and 30, 1983?
2. Was Canada's delegation the third largest delegation of the ten official delegations at that meeting?
3. Did the Government pay for the cost of six unofficial delegates from the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, The Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Sealers Association and, if so, for what reason?
4. What were the names of the delegates sent by Canada, either as official or unofficial delegates?
5. What was the total cost of the Canadian delegation to Botswana?
6. Did sending the delegation of sixteen to the Convention in Botswana constitute an appropriate response by the Government to the 6 and 5 Program?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. Canada did participate in the biennial meeting of parties to the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Gaborone, Botswana, April 19-30, 1983. One of the principal reasons for this participation was the presentation at this conference of both a proposal and a resolution either of which, if passed, could have seriously damaged the Canadian economy. The proposal called for the inclusion in an "endangered species" list of all phocid seals including those currently harvested in Canada, either commercially or on a subsistence basis by our indigenous people, a proposal which Canadian scientists judged to be groundless but which if passed would likely have removed any hope for a recovery of the Canadian

sealing industry. The resolution called for a complete halt in the international trade of furs taken from animals trapped by what were alleged to be inhumane methods, a resolution which ignored the steady progress being made in Canada to ensure that trapping is carried out humanely, but which if passed could have severely damaged the \$600 million annual revenue of the Canadian fur industry.

2. Canada's delegation, with ten members, was the third largest of the 53 official delegations, behind the U.S.A. (15) and Botswana (30), although only slightly larger than delegations from countries such as the F.R.G. (9) or Britain (9). No other country, however, would have been proportionately more adversely affected than Canada if the proposal or the resolution had been passed.

3. Individual Canadian Government Departments subsidized the expenses of participation as observers of the following representatives of non-government organizations: Messrs. Enoch Obed and Peter Ernerk of the Inuit Tapirisat, Mr. George Erasmus of The Assembly of First Nations of Canada, Mr. Willie Deraspe of the Canadian Sealers' Association.

It was considered vital to allow representatives of those Canadians likely to be most adversely affected if the proposal or the resolution were passed to be able to speak for themselves on the issue, especially where such persons are from disadvantaged groups unable themselves to pay the high costs of international travel. All of these observers provided persuasive personal touches which were particularly effective in allowing Third World delegates more closely to identify with the human issues involved. CITES meetings allow the participation of NGO representatives as observers, and nearly 150 attended.

4. The official delegation consisted of:

Mr. Bert Tétreault,
 Director General,
 Canadian Wildlife Service,
 Environment Canada,
 (Head of Delegation);
 Mr. John Heppes,
 Administrator for CITES for Canada,
 Environment Canada,
 (Alternate Head of Delegation);
 Mr. Peter Ittinuar, M.P.,
 Special Advisor to the Delegation;
 Mr. William T. Munro,
 Biologist,
 Fish and Wildlife Service,
 British Columbia Government;
 Mr. George Cowley,
 Head, Environment Section,
 Energy and Environment Division,
 Department of External Affairs;
 Dr. Nick Novakowski,