

*Oral Questions*

NDP now purports to represent. The NDP seems to be supporting policies which would result in Canadians having to pay 60 or 70 cents for the delivery of a letter.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## ACID RAIN—DAMAGE INFLICTED BY EMISSIONS FROM UNITED STATES

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. Canadians are dismayed at the lack of progress on the acid rain front. In 1985 the Prime Minister lost one year waiting for the acid rain Envoys' Report. In 1986 he gave Washington the wrong signal by agreeing to five years of coal technology research and demonstration. This year in this Chamber the Prime Minister enthusiastically applauded President Reagan when he committed himself merely to consider the possibility of an acid rain treaty.

Now that the Government is awakening to the realities of Canada-U.S. relations, will the Prime Minister find the courage to total up the damage to Canadian buildings, to forestry and agriculture, to our maple syrup producers, and to human health, and present a bill to President Reagan for the damages inflicted on Canada, as we did as a result of satellite debris falling in northern Canada some years ago?

**Mr. Gauthier:** Consider it.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend says "consider it". Canadians did consider the fact that the inaction over many years in the area of the environment, particularly acid rain, was something for which they paid a heavy price. If my hon. friend, who seeks a non-partisan level, is critical of us, I think he would agree that his record as a former Minister of the Environment is substantially less than sterling in terms of his accomplishments with regard to abating acid rain.

My hon. friend is aware of the progress made in this area by the Minister of the Environment, most recently in ozone protection. He is aware of the advancements which the Minister of the Environment has made with South Moresby National Park. He is aware of the advances made by the Minister in introducing an Environmental Protection Act. I think he is aware of substantial accomplishment by the Minister of the Environment and I hope that at the appropriate time he will celebrate that accomplishment as well.

**Mr. Caccia:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Canadians will be comforted by that decisive answer by the Prime Minister and his acceptance of his responsibility with regard to acid rain.

[Translation]

## ACID RAIN—DAMAGES SUFFERED BY MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS—POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, here is my question: Is at least the Prime Minister ready to bill Washington for the damages done to Quebec maple syrup producers, who have complained about the damage done by acid rain and are claiming a \$1 million compensation for damages due to the acidity caused by the Americans?

**The Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we are keeping in close touch with Quebec producers in that industry and are trying to get justice for them by the most legitimate and efficient means. I think my honourable friend will agree that when he was Minister of the Environment, he did absolutely nothing for years, so I think one might suggest he is not serious when pointing out the consequences of his own failures.

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[English]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## ARREST OF CANADIAN CITIZEN IN INDIA—CONSULAR ACCESS

**Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York-Scarborough):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I will direct my question to the Minister for External Relations. Two weeks ago I asked whether consular access had been provided for our High Commission in New Delhi to Daljit Singh, a Canadian arrested in the Punjab.

Since India is obliged to provide Canada consular access to Mr. Singh under the Vienna Convention, can the Minister assure the House that consular access has now been provided and that our officials have verified that Mr. Singh did not suffer any physical abuse while in police custody?

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague for his question and to reassure him that the High Commission in New Delhi has been advised by the Indian authorities that consular access has been authorised for Mr. Singh. An official of our High Commission will now be in the Punjab to meet Mr. Singh.