

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AND ENFORCE NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR SO₂ EMISSIONS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. My motion concerns the continual exceeding of provincial limits on the emission of SO₂ by the Great Canadian Oil Sands Company at the Alberta tar sands site. Since 1974, according to a report by STOP enclosed in a letter to the attorney general of Alberta from that organization, Great Canadian Oil Sands has exceeded the provincial SO₂ limits 258 times.

In view of the fact that this evidence corroborates the view of many that the province of Alberta is unable or unwilling to enforce its standards on GCOS, and in view of the fact that such emissions are a threat to the environment and health of tens of thousands of people living in the vicinity I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez):

That the federal government take action immediately under the Clean Air Act to establish and enforce national standards of SO₂ emissions, which are long overdue in any case, and to enforce those standards in the tar sands operations.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There seems to be some indication that this motion has less than unanimous consent.

* * *

HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM AUSTRALIA**

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the oral question period, may I take this opportunity to call to the attention of all hon. members the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished delegation, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, from Australia, headed by their distinguished Minister of Defence, the Hon. D. J. Killen.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN INSPECTION STAFF OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. The question arises out of the recent remarks of the Prime Minister that rather than the industrial countries giving up their right to sell nuclear power to whoever they wish, the world should not be afraid to live dangerously. In the light of the fact that it seems increasingly unlikely that

[Mr. Paproski.]

mankind will be able to control the political chain reaction of proliferation, which now threatens to become critical, will the Prime Minister take steps to achieve an increase in the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards capability, which at present has a staff of only 40 professionals to inspect over 400 nuclear installations?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I may answer the question on behalf of the Prime Minister, just a short time ago I had a long discussion with the officers of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, and one of the questions I put to them quite forcibly was the very question the hon. member raised, namely, whether they had at their disposal adequate staff and inspection services to carry out their responsibilities. The answer from the officials was that they had adequate staff and adequate resources, and if the need for future additional resources should arise, they will make the appropriate request. That is the answer to that question.

Mr. Roche: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Secretary of State for External Affairs made a speech to the OECD this week in which he chastized the industrial nations for not doing more in the cause of peace and development in the world. In the light of that speech and the answer he has just given, will the Canadian government indicate to IAEA that Canada is willing if necessary to increase contributions to the agency, with the proviso that the extra resources are to be used to expand the safeguards division?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the first part of the question, my comments with respect to industrial nations were to suggest that in the continuing dialogue that is going on in Paris, it would be dangerous if the industrialized countries engaged in foot-dragging in the vital months that lie ahead. During my discussions with officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency, I indicated to them that Canada was prepared to increase its financial commitment to the agency and I am sure that we would consider, if in their judgment additional resources were required for inspection services, doing precisely the same in that field.

* * *

ENERGY**NUCLEAR POWER—PROPOSED TRANSFER OF ACTIVITIES FROM PROMOTION TO SAFEGUARDS**

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the government indicate to the governing board of the IAEA that it is this country's view, as expressed by such people as Maurice Strong, the chairman of Petro-Canada as well as many distinguished Canadians who met during the Habitat conference, in Vancouver that the promotion of nuclear power is inconsistent with its proper regulation and that resources presently used in promotion should be redeployed to safeguards activities?