

CONSTITUENCY ASSIGNMENTS OF GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, since this involves Government contracts, half of which are not tendered by the federal Government, will the Government House Leader provide us with a list of all Conservative MPs who are assigned to each one of the 71 opposition Members and tell us what instructions are given to his Conservative MPs about Government contracts?

● (1140)

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as you know, I would not comment on the admissibility of that question since it has nothing to do with ministerial accountability. It has to do with the fact that—

Mr. Nystrom: Patronage.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: —in the New Democratic Party there are Members of Parliament who are given responsibility for certain areas and certain constituencies. This is not unusual. Any suggestion by the Hon. Member that there is something wrong with this system is simply not a strict, correct statement of fact.

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[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DANGER REPRESENTED BY RISK OF RADIATION TO POPULATION
OF QUEBEC

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Yesterday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a press release which referred to a higher than normal rate of radioactivity in the State of Vermont, which is on the U.S. border with Quebec. Could the Minister inform the House whether our people are at risk and whether there is any danger involved for our dairy producers in connection with the problem mentioned in the U.S. press release?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for Lévis for his question and his concern for the health of Quebec residents.

[English]

I wish to tell the Hon. Member that we continue to monitor the very high levels at Montpelier, Vermont, which have not been reflected in Quebec. I can assure residents of the province, specifically those in Montreal and Quebec City, that the radioactive levels we have detected in rainwater and in air have been very low levels, commensurate with the other levels across the country I have given in earlier days. There has been some radiation found in milk in Montreal, none has been found

Oral Questions

in milk in Quebec City. Again, that level is well below any set safety standard. We will keep on checking.

The fear that there were the same high levels in the province of the Hon. Member as found in Vermont has not been experienced. I wish to assure all Hon. Members and residents of the province that there is nothing to fear as we now know at this time.

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AIRPORTS

AWARDING OF SECURITY SERVICES CONTRACT AT MONTREAL
AIRPORTS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Transport. It is a follow-up to the Metropole investigation. On May 13, 1986, the Leader of the Government in the Senate was quoted as saying: "When I learned a deal was in the offing I made sure my wife stayed out of the arrangement". How did the Leader of the Government in the Senate know a deal was in the offing?

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, were the Minister of Transport here today I think he would remind the Hon. Member that the responsibility of the Government was to ensure the orderly transfer of security arrangements from one company to the other. The Government was advised that the company Metropole would be the company in question.

SENATOR'S KNOWLEDGE

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, if in fact the Senator had no involvement with his wife's business, given that we already know the wife is a shareholder in a company which is directly doing business with a Crown corporation, how did the Senator even know about the pending change in arrangements?

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I just attempted to indicate to the Hon. Member, all parties involved in the security at airports were advised. That includes the Government.

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TRADE

LUMBER EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL
MINISTERS' MEETING

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister who might be aware that we are on the brink of a trade war with the United States over free trade in softwood lumber. He might also be aware that the envoy process is going nowhere and that the clock is running on a