

Oral Questions

in their business promotion plans to offset that trend to shop in the United States?

Has the federal government any plan to participate in this initiative now, or will it be offering a similar plan before Christmas?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, obviously, we are not as rich as the Government of Ontario, and we prefer to see if there are any other options that we can consider with those whom we are dealing with at the present time.

We are not considering—if I want to be very upfront—any possibility of putting money in any plan before Christmas. The fact of the matter is that we are working in different ways to face the problem, but in those ways, I do not have any package or subsidies at the present time.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment.

No one is fooled by what is going on with the \$24 billion James Bay II or the \$8 billion Great Whale projects.

Quebec wants to proceed with an assessment of the roads and airports now, and then construct the \$6 million worth of roads and airports while the environmental assessment of the flooding of the reservoirs and the dams is undertaken and then cry economic ruin should any part of the second phase be found unacceptable.

Does the minister not finally agree that the assessment must include the entire project in one piece? Otherwise, it is a process that will lead to roads to nowhere and irreparable environmental harm.

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned on quite a few occasions in this House, the government believes that there has to be a full environmental assessment done on the project before work begins.

That is the position we have had. That is the position we have been discussing with the province of Quebec, and that is the position we will stand by.

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, Quebec has decided to split the Great Whale project into two parts.

Discussions about a joint environmental assessment have been going nowhere now for 18 months. Will the minister, for once, do what is right rather than what Quebec Hydro wants and today implement the only choice that there is to protect the environment and proceed alone if necessary to assess the Great Whale project and its infrastructure as one piece, not as two?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would like to make two points very clearly to my hon. colleague, one that I mentioned earlier on.

Under various acts and regulations, the federal government has all the power and opportunity to conduct a full EARP review. On the other hand, we are also dealing with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement that was signed by the federal government, the Quebec government and by native people under the auspices, by the way, of the former Liberal government back in 1975. That is a legally binding agreement. We are trying, with the agreement on the one hand and with our power to have a full EARP review unilaterally declared by the federal government, to reach an agreement with the province so that the process can be done in a way that we will have the results before construction starts.

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• (1450)

[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. On many occasions, my constituents have complained of the fact that young people under sixteen years of age can buy small arms ammunition. Can the Minister tell us today whether the purchase or sale of ammunition is illegal when the buyer is less than sixteen years old, because it seems to me that, in Quebec, merchants do not follow the regulations?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, while the control of firearms is governed by the Criminal Code, ammunition is normally controlled under the Explosives Act.