

Oral Questions

year, that is information with respect to what radio-nuclides were found in Canada, where they were found, at what levels they were found, and what sources they were determined to be from.

That is the kind of information which, if we want to have an intelligent debate on nuclear power, we should have at our fingertips. I have written to the Minister of National Health and Welfare a number of times and I have questioned him in the House. When I last heard from him on March 13 he said that there was a report coming.

When is that report coming? When will the Canadian people finally find out what happened to Canada as a result of Chernobyl?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as I have said to the Hon. Member, I have made all the information available. If more information comes to my attention I will make that available as well. I am not withholding any information which has come to me or that I know is within the Department.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not made all the information available by his own admission to me in a letter of March 13 in which he says that the information I am seeking will be forthcoming in a report yet to be released. The report by Mr. Prince, commissioned by the Minister himself, says that there was a great deal of confusion with respect to information about fallout in Canada.

How does the Minister have the nerve to get up once more and give the Canadian people and this Parliament bland assurances that all the information is available? If all that is available is what was contained in the Mickey Mouse paper which he tabled in December, we are in real trouble.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The Hon. Member is not going to impress anyone simply by raising his voice. If he is getting his lessons at Disneyland he can go back.

Mr. Nystrom: Now you're goofy.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): I commissioned the Prince report because we wanted to learn whether or not we had handled it well. There are some recommendations in the Prince report on which we are now following up. However, if there is more information, I will make it available.

It is generally believed that the amount of radiation to which Canada was exposed from the Chernobyl accident increased our radioactivity by approximately 15 per cent. He knows that, I know that, and—

Mr. Blaikie: Tell us what was found and where it was found!

Mr. Epp (Provencher): Just relax or your health bill will go up.

Mr. Blaikie: Tell us what was found and where it was found, and how much.

Mr. de Jong: One year later and they still don't know.

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THE CONSTITUTION

FORTHCOMING FIRST MINISTERS' MEETING

Mr. John Reimer (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. All Canadians wish the Prime Minister and the premiers well as they convene later this week in a constitutional conference. I am sure all Members of the House would agree that it is imperative that the Province of Quebec, with its unique heritage and contribution to Canada, be a full participating member in all constitutional matters with all provinces and the federal Government.

Does the Prime Minister believe that he and the other premiers together can reach an agreement that will satisfy the natural expectations of the people of Quebec and, at the same time, respect the legitimate concerns of all other regions and Premiers of Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think all premiers recognize the importance of this vital exercise on Thursday. I had the opportunity of speaking with nine of the First Ministers over the weekend to explore various possibilities with them. There is no doubt in my mind with regard to their resolve to attempt to bring a solution to this matter.

We are all aware of the obstacles which exist. It will not be easy, but I am somewhat encouraged by the clear-stated resolve of all premiers of all political stripes across the country to attempt to finally reach a solution to a very intractable constitutional situation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ACID RAIN—POSITION OF HEAD OF UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Two weeks after the Ottawa summit, at which President Reagan made a commitment to consider an accord on acid rain, his cabinet Minister in Washington, Mr. Lee Thomas, who is responsible for the environment, told a Senate committee that he sees no need for Congress to pass legislation to reduce acid rain. Has he taken diplomatic initiatives to counteract such a statement which tells us that President Reagan's statement in Ottawa three weeks ago is not taken seriously even in Washington?