

• (1415)

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN REPORT OF WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, this morning Jim MacNeill, Secretary General for the World Commission on Environment and Development, appeared before the Standing Committee on Environment and Forestry. We discussed what Canada can do in the implementation of the Commission's report.

For instance, Canada can speak strongly in favour of the implementation of the recommendations when the General Assembly of the United Nations meets next October. Or, the Government can have the report examined by each federal Department and agency. Such a review may reveal policies that are not sustainable. For example, on energy we might find out that instead of promoting fossil fuel combustion, namely, coal, gasoline and the like, we should instead promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources of energy. Or, take agriculture. We may find that Canada's existing policies are incompatible with sustainable development as indicated already by the Senate report on soils. Or, take the flow of Canada's foreign aid. We may discover that the quality of assistance needs to be substantially improved in order to sustain development.

I urge the Government of Canada to elevate the environment and sustainable development to the centre of the decision-making process if we are to ensure economic growth for generations to come.

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NARCOTICS

GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON DRUG ABUSE PLAN WELCOMED

Mr. Rob Nicholson (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Government's move to act against the serious problem of drug abuse. This problem was brought home to my attention recently by information concerning problems in the Niagara Peninsula in our schools. We, as parents, were warned that our small children might be given stickers that apparently transmit LSD type drugs through a child's skin. The stickers were in the form of a star or cartoon characters.

What kind of individuals do we have in society that would jeopardize the health and life of our children in this way? In the midst of this, I am disappointed to see reports from the Opposition's critics questioning both the seriousness of the drug problem, and even the Minister of National Health and Welfare's (Mr. Epp) sincerity in trying to deal with it. I would suggest to them for once forget such partisan comments and co-operate with the Government. Everyone must realize that

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drug abuse among children and, indeed, Canadians, threatens the well-being of all of us.

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NARCOTICS

GOVERNMENT'S ACTION ON DRUG ABUSE PLAN—COMMITMENT CHALLENGED

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I, for one, would like to challenge the Government's commitment to fighting drug abuse.

Last night in our committee we heard from the Native Council of Canada which has been seeking a meeting with the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) for over a year, a meeting to discuss the very serious problem of those teenagers in Alberta who died after drinking photocopy fluid. The Minister promised them a meeting last year.

He still has not had the guts to meet with the Native Council of Canada which Council pointed out that half a million native Canadians living off reserve and non-status Canadians will not be covered by his drug abuse plan, half a million Canadians who have been ignored by this Government, half a million Canadians among whom the level of substance abuse, both through alcohol and drug abuse, is three times the national average.

Why would the Minister refuse to meet with the Native Council of Canada? Why has he ignored the tragic deaths of those teenagers in Alberta who died after drinking photocopy fluid?

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HIS EXCELLENCY AMINTORE FANFANI, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I want to draw the attention of the House of Commons to the presence in our Gallery of the President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Italy, His Excellency Amintore Fanfani.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-FRANCE DISCUSSIONS—EAST COAST FISHING RIGHTS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we are delighted with the presence of Signor Fanfani