

Oral Questions

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should be aware that I have already conveyed to the Premier of Manitoba my assurances that the AECL research site will not become a permanent site.

UNITED STATES DUMP SITE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, that is not the question I asked. It is a question I have asked before but it is not the one I just asked. I asked the Minister if she will instruct AECL not to enter into any agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy with respect to the URL and Lac du Bonnet until such time as the American sites which could potentially affect Canada are removed from the list of sites. If not, we will be co-operating in polluting our own backyard.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the House will know that largely through the personal initiative of Members of the House such as the Hon. Member for Shefford, the Government of Canada was successful in persuading the United States to remove the Vermont site from the list. There has now been a new list brought forward containing a few number of sites that might raise problems for Canada. I have already been approached by the Hon. Member for Brandon-Souris and Conservative Members from Saskatchewan, and I am sure their pressures will be brought to bear as effectively upon the Government of the United States as were the pressures brought by the Conservative Member for Shefford.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—ROLE OF PROVINCES

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister clear up for the House today which version of events is correct *vis-à-vis* the provinces' role in free trade negotiations: his version as reported in the press today or his version from Halifax; full participation or third-party participation?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is no inconsistency. Ambassador Reisman was in fact to have met tomorrow but will be meeting on February 4 with provincial representatives pursuant to the document agreed upon in Halifax to define further the manner in which this kind of co-operation can be brought about.

PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the negotiator has been elevated to ambassador. I realized that his salary might have been elevated but I was not sure that he had become an ambassador.

Obviously the people of Canada want to know whether or not the provinces will have a direct role at the negotiating table as was promised by the Prime Minister at the Halifax discussion. Does he stand by the statement he made in Halifax or has he once again misled the people of Canada as to his intentions?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Hon. Member, there has been no elevation of Simon Reisman recently. He was appointed ambassador some months ago on the same day we appointed him to his present job. Like many other things, that has just dawned on the Hon. Member.

In regard to the methodology, there is nothing inconsistent at all with what has taken place. Ambassador Reisman is working very closely and well with his provincial colleagues to develop a plan which will ensure the greatest degree of participation possible for the provinces in the process. That has been our objective as opposed to other views taken by previous Governments that would have completely excluded the provinces from the elaboration and implementation of this kind of process. We are in favour of full participation.

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AGRICULTURE

INTRODUCTION OF BANKRUPTCY LEGISLATION

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Is it still the intention of the Minister to introduce bankruptcy legislation with teeth and power to renegotiate interest rates and reduce debt, as he described it, as he promised a month before Christmas?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we continue to study that approach and we are looking at a number of options at the moment.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PRAIRIE WILDLIFE INTERPRETATION CENTRE

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and concerns the future of the Prairie Wildlife Interpretation Centre near Webb, Saskatchewan. The 1986 summer season is fast approaching and I would ask the Minister if he could comment on the future of the centre, both for this coming summer and for the long term.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, briefly, we want to keep the Centre open. We want to arrive at an arrangement that would enable everyone concerned to know of it well in advance of the arrangement. For that purpose, I wrote to the Minister responsible for parks and