

S.O. 21

it being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES COURT ACTION ON NIAGARA RIVER
POLLUTION—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO CANADIAN
AGENCIES

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, millions of Canadians are being subjected to another Liberal hoax. To put distance between himself and his predecessor who did nothing, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Caccia) toured the Niagara toxic waste areas, and publicly stated that cleanup would be a priority issue both with respect to talks with his American counter-parts and in his Department, giving the impression generally that he was a man who would get things done.

Earlier this week in the House he seemed oblivious of the time period involved with a very technical and complex proposal before the courts. He said he needed help from people in the area.

Well, Mr. Minister, your Department has been getting help from the people in the area for years. Pollution Probe and Operation Clean have received your blessings, your commendation, and your encouragement, but not your money. Knowing that your Department will not intervene, will you help them, first by obtaining an extended time period to allow Canadians to make constructive comments on that proposed court settlement; then make your Department expertise and information available to these people's agencies that care and, last, since you are aware of their financial concerns and needs, will you assist those agencies with funding so that they might do the job that has to be done in the interest of Canadians?

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THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, since the 1980 election the Official Opposition has made a concerted effort to poison the atmosphere in this House by fostering acrimony, and then manipulating that acrimony to paint themselves "poor victims" of imaginary Liberal Government chicanery. The latest example is the

Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) blaming the date of the upcoming Budget for the cancellation of a European trip.

For some time now, the Official Opposition has refused to allow the long standing and honourable practice of pairing, whereby a Liberal Member can safely be absent from this House, knowing that a member of the Official Opposition will also be absent to balance out the scales. This practice by the Official Opposition has particularly affected the ability of Liberal Ministers to fulfil official duties requiring travel. Have they complained and cried? No! They have put their responsibilities as Members of this House ahead of travelling.

The Leader of the Opposition cries because he has cancelled a European trip. This man, who has refused to co-operate with Ministers trying to do official duties on behalf of Canada, berates the Government because he did not try to ascertain if a civil request for postponement could be met. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) offered an accommodation. It was turned down because the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to continue to play the "poor victim", even if he has to create the circumstances that make him a victim. When he was Leader of the Opposition, the Right Hon. Member for Yellowhead (Mr. Clark) at least got half way around the world before losing his luggage, but the present Leader of the Opposition cannot even get off the ground in his own country.

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AGRICULTURE**PROPOSED RED MEAT STABILIZATION PLAN**

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, inaction by the federal Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) in the red meat area has forced some provincial Ministers to take action. Red meat producers in Canada are seeking ways of improving their industry and would certainly appreciate more commitment from their federal Minister of Agriculture to assist them in doing so. He should not say essentially, by his cool reception and do-nothing position, that the cattlemen and red meat producers do not know what is best for them and, therefore, he will only give a commitment if they accept his theory of a supply management marketing board.

By waiting, and not giving support to the initiatives for a proposed national red meat stabilization plan, these beginnings of national discussions seem to be evaporating. This is unfortunate because, through this kind of co-operation and discussion, satisfactory stabilization solutions might have been found. Rather, it seems that the federal Minister will only move if he has more control and power.

The Minister would love to have the power to set prices, issue quotas, control imports, register all beef producers, and charge levies to cover costs and surplus disposal—visions of Section 14 of the Canagrex Bill. What the industry needs instead of the Minister's pet peeves is co-operation, consultation, and supportive assistance to come to its own solutions.