

Oral Questions

Government is thinking of locating at Holland Pond in Vermont, on the Canadian border next to the Eastern Townships.

The Americans are considering the site because there are very few people living in the area on their side of the border, but they are ignoring—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have now come to the point where I cannot hear the Hon. Member. Is it possible for the House to allow the Hon. Member to put his question?

[Translation]

Mr. Cassidy: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat my question for the benefit of the Minister.

My question concerns the dump for radioactive wastes which the Americans are thinking of locating at Holland Pond in Vermont, on the Canadian border next to the Eastern Townships; the Americans are considering this site because there are very few people living in the area on their side of the border. However, they are ignoring the fact that there are 200,000 Canadians living in the area on the Canadian side. In view of the potential risk to Canadians which would continue to exist for thousands of years, will the Canadian Government make it clear to the Americans that the dump is unacceptable to Canadians?

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, at the request of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, our embassy immediately informed the Department of State of our interest in this matter. Our officials are working actively on this case and are monitoring developments very closely. For the information of Hon. Members, I would like to point out that a meeting was called yesterday, where we were represented by the Hon. Member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Charest)—I wonder where the Opposition was since we might have had some common interests—and we intend to pursue the matter and to take steps in order to—

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. The Government has announced that Canadians have an interest in this matter. Could the Minister inform the House quite frankly that this plan to locate a dump site for radioactive wastes on the border is unacceptable to Canada?

Mrs. Vézina: Mr. Speaker, I said that we were monitoring developments very closely, and we will report on assessments of the situation as they are made.

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FORESTRY

CANADA-QUEBEC AGREEMENT—DATE OF SIGNATURE

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Forestry). Since

the forestry industry is very important to Quebec, especially in my riding of Témiscamingue, could the Minister inform the House when he intends to sign the Canada-Quebec agreement on upgrading forestry resources?

[English]

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry)): Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the continued interest of the Hon. Member. It is not the first time he has asked a question on that. In the last two days we concluded another amendment to an agreement with the Province of Quebec. Hopefully that will be the last and we will be able to sign the agreement on Tuesday next in Quebec City. This \$300 million agreement is an excellent one which will go a long way to create the kind of programs for silviculture and forest management that Quebec and Canada need.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON KENORA INCIDENT

Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe): My question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and relates to the Kenora incident, of course, but more specifically to the truck transporting many beef carcasses, most of which to be delivered in Asbestos in my riding. I appreciate that the Minister reassured the residents of the region by telling them he would take every step necessary to warn them and set them at ease, but can he tell us when and how many carcasses were recovered?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I believe the number of carcasses in the truck was 57. As I said, there were two sides that were delivered to two points in Ontario. The best information I can give on the number of carcasses that we have recovered is the number that we have recovered and on which tests were done. That in total was six, five I believe in the Asbestos area. The situation is that there are those residents who might have bought a side of freezer beef. That can be fairly easily traced. In the case where individual butcher shops received the meat and sold it, we obviously cannot trace that. That is why I offered the services of the Department at Sherbrooke. If they want to have any contact or help along those lines, we are willing to give it.

[Translation]

DELAY IN INTERVENTIONS BY DEPARTMENT AND BY PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Mr. Alain Tardif (Richmond-Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Considering the fact that the Kenora incident occurred on April 13 and that, as far as I know, the remaining carcasses were in fact recovered only yesterday or the day