

concerned about the health of Canadians. We have introduced the Bill because it is of benefit to Canada.

● (1430)

Why are the New Democratic Party and the Liberals so preoccupied with what the Americans think? We do not care. We are doing this for Canada's benefit.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### ACID RAIN—EFFECT ON LAKES IN EASTERN CANADA

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. According to Dr. Schindler of the Freshwater Institute of Winnipeg, up to 600,000 lakes in eastern Canada are vulnerable to acid rain damage, not the 300,000 as estimated so far. As many as 28,000 lakes, not 14,000, are already acidified. Will the Deputy Prime Minister relay Dr. Schindler's findings to the Prime Minister and urge him to find the courage he needs to get up from his prime ministerial knees and demand from the President, in the name of good Canada-U. S. relations, specific reductions in acid rain pollution which is coming into Canada in deadly quantities, when they meet on April 5 in Ottawa? Will he do that?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I have no interest whatsoever in debating with the Hon. Member for Davenport the sciences of acid rain. I think it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Government that it is a very serious transboundary problem. Acid rain is the number one environmental priority of the Government of Canada. It is one of the top priorities on the government-wide agenda. Whether 300,000 lakes are being destroyed, or whether it is 600,000, we could not make it any higher a priority than it already is.

**Mr. Caccia:** If that is the case, why does the Prime Minister not openly say what Canada wants in the interests of Canadians, rather than dancing around?

### REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER PRESS ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS WITH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** In view of the increasing economic damage to the United States and Canada in terms of agriculture, forestry, the fisheries, human health, buildings and structures, will the Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister of the Environment urge the Prime Minister to stop applauding President Reagan and start pressing the economic arguments with the President, which are so convincingly in favour of acid rain cuts, in Ottawa on April 5? Will he do that?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that acid rain would be the last

## Oral Questions

issue on which the Liberal Party of Canada would moralize, given its record over a quarter of a century.

When I was environment critic for the Official Opposition for three years, I used to ask the Liberal Prime Minister at the time, after every single meeting he had with the President of the United States, through bilateral discussions or multilateral discussions, whether or not he had used the occasion of his meeting with the President of the United States to raise Canada's very serious concerns about acid rain. The reply of the Liberal Prime Minister was always: "Well, I can't raise just every bilateral issue". Under the Liberals acid rain was just another bilateral issue. For us it is the number one priority.

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## TRADE

### CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARDS QUERY

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I do not care which one answers. Over many months this House has been assured a number of times in answers to questions that under no circumstances would the Canadian Wheat Board or other marketing boards be part of or on the table in negotiations on free trade. Can the Government assure us that that is still the case and that they are not part of the free trade talks?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I can, I will, I do.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Benjamin:** In view of the facts, I am glad that was not a marriage proposal.

### REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, the office of the United States trade representative states: "The role of the Canadian Wheat Board and other Canadian marketing boards will— not "maybe" or anything else but "will"—be discussed during the bilateral free trade agreements negotiations". What is going on? Can the Minister tell us with certainty that our representative has been instructed that they are not on the table and they are not negotiable and that he will not discuss those items with the United States?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** The only people who raise these matters are the New Democratic Party. We are not going to be negotiating the question of the Canadian Wheat Board, and the principle of supply-management, as I said in the House before, is not a matter involved in the trade negotiations.