

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the repetition coming from the hon. gentleman who asked the question, the response of the Secretary of State for External Affairs on May 21 in this House is still quite valid. The Prime Minister has specifically directed that Mr. Reisman look at adding the dimensions of Francophones, women, and regional interests to the group. That is being done. I believe the Minister responsible for the Status of Women has already identified one woman to be added to the group. Further progress will be made.

[Translation]

APPLICATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, it's worse than I thought. If the Prime Minister spoke to Mr. Reisman, he has merely established that he has no more clout with Reisman than he has with the U.S. President, because nothing has changed. The woman who was added is in a very junior position.

I would like to ask the Secretary of State, as the Minister responsible for official languages programs, whether he at least has made representations to have more francophones on the free trade negotiating team. And if he has done so, I wish he would inform the House what terms and what arguments he used, since he is so proud of—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order! The Hon. Minister has the floor.

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as usual, the Hon. Member for Saint-Jacques is getting things mixed up, but that is par for the course, and his preambles are so long that the questions have no substance at all.

The question of enforcing our legislation on official languages generally has no connection with the selection of francophone candidates . . . Listen to the answer—

Mr. Speaker, this party has the delightful habit of asking questions and answering them at the same time. So answer the questions if you want to answer them.

* * *

[English]

ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF INDUSTRY

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. It concerns

reports yesterday evening about AECL's plans to expand the marketing of mini-reactors, and also reports that it intends to store the wastes produced by these reactors at Pinawa and Chalk River. Is this not further evidence of the need for a full public inquiry into the nuclear industry in Canada?

In the absence of that type of inquiry on the part of the Government will the Minister take his responsibilities seriously as the Minister in charge of the environment and initiate a federal environment review process with respect to how these wastes will be transported from these mini-reactors to these sites, and with respect to the question of storage generally?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Members knows that AECL does not report to me, but to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. So probably the pith and substance of the question should more appropriately be directed to her.

To the extent the question relates to me and my responsibilities and those of my Department, I will take the Hon. Member's representation as one validly put and vigorously expressed.

REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have long since given up on the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources as far as the environmental aspects of energy development are concerned. I am looking to the Minister of the Environment as the advocate for the environment of the country to do something about the palpable negligence on the part of his colleague. I realize he cannot say anything too terrible in public. However, as Minister of the Environment I would ask him to consider that it is about time the environment took precedence over the technological imperatives of AECL and its misplaced missionary zeal to fill up the whole country with mini-reactors.

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I will answer the Hon. Member's question. First, there have been no sales of the Slowpoke to which the Hon. Member refers.

Mr. Blaikie: But you want to sell them!

Mr. McDermid: Prototypes of them are being worked on right now, and there are demonstrations. It is purely a hypothetical thing. No agreements have been made. The individual who gave the interview was absolutely misquoted. The facts which the Hon. Member brings forward this morning are not correct.