

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners want Parliament to cause the government to cease with a proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians, through a regressive consumption tax, instead of through real tax reform.

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville): Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 36, I have a petition signed by Canadian citizens from various communities, adding further to the number of dissenters. The petitioners are expressing the outrage of the Canadian public in general to the tax on reading materials. This is a cruel and brutal tax, it is unprecedented in this country, and, it is unprecedented, I think, in any other civilized society in the world.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 348 and 368.

[Text]

1987 PROTOCOL TO THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT

Question No. 348—Mr. Caccia:

1. With regards to the 1987 Protocol to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, (a) what new data must be provided (b) when will programs be in place to compile such data (c) has such data been compiled and, if so, for which years (d) will the data be released to the public and, if so (i) in what form (ii) when?

2. With regards to the same Agreement (a) by what date was the priority list of toxic substances to be prepared (i) when will it be prepared (ii) released to the public?

Right Hon. Charles Joseph Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): 1. (a) The 1987 Protocol to the GLWQA calls for the collection of data as part of programs to:

—remedy longstanding severely polluted areas ("Areas of Concern")

—develop lakewide management plans;

—address contaminated sediments and groundwater;

—quantify toxic substances in the air and in land run-off;

—assess human health effects;

develop ecosystem objectives and water quality objectives that can be agreed upon by jurisdictions in the Great Lakes basin.

b) Programs are now in place to collect such data.

c) Canada's first report under the 1987 Protocol, based on data collected, was made public in February, 1989. It covered the period 1987-88.

d) December 31st, 1990 marks the end of the second reporting period under the 1987 Protocol. Canada's report for this period will be made public in the form of a progress report to the International Joint Commission. We anticipate the report will be released early in 1991.

2. Through consultation and cooperation, the Parties to the 1987 Protocol to the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement have drafted Standard Methods and developed the required Lists of Substances. The Standard Methods determine those substances believed to have acute or chronic effects on aquatic or terrestrial biota and are believed to be present in, or have the potential of being discharged to, the Great Lakes system. They take into consideration acute or chronic toxic effects, carcinogenicity, teratogenicity, mutagenicity, bioaccumulation and environmental persistence.

The Agreement calls for the compilation and maintenance of three Lists of Substances, to be used to guide the Parties, State and Provincial Governments and the International Joint Commission in proposing substances for new Specific Objectives. These Lists, *Present and Toxic*, *Present and Potentially Toxic*, *Potentially Present and Toxic*, were developed in 1989.

A Protocol for adopting chemical objectives is also being developed for federal, provincial and state review.

In March of 1990, the Standard Methods and Lists of Substances were released to the public for review. Comments have been received and are being reviewed by the Binational Objectives Development Committee. Annual updates will be published every spring for public comment.