

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLLUTION OF CANADIAN WATER SUPPLIES—REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET WITH UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, if I can catch his attention for a second. In light of the fact that there is absolutely no action being taken now in the Niagara area of upstate New York on the Love Canal, Hyde Park, the 102nd Street dump or the S site dump of Hooker Chemical, and in view of the fact that such dangerous chemicals as mirex, PCBs and dioxin are entering our water supplies because of American inaction, and since the minister and his department have on ten separate occasions in recent months exchanged diplomatic notes with the U.S. State Department in this regard with absolutely no effect, will the minister inform this House that he will arrange a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State on this matter and make not only the conclusions of such meeting public but also his proposals?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the hon. gentleman's question indicates, this is a matter in which the facts are somewhat complicated and the degree of co-operation we have been receiving is somewhat less than we want. We are of course meeting with the EPA and trying to arrange meetings with the appropriate American officials. I do not believe at the present time the Secretary of State would be the appropriate American official, but I want to assure the hon. member that this is a matter we take very seriously and we will be pressing it with the American authorities.

NATURE OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, the minister's observations are interesting to hear in light of a 70 per cent cut in the EPA budget, and the minister has yet to appoint a Canadian chairman to the IJC. The Minister of the Environment has refused to meet with the New York State assemblymen, although we met with them last week and were the first Canadian politicians to do so.

Dr. Beverly Paigen of the New York State Health Department said yesterday that the release of chemicals from the Hooker chemical dumps and others into the Niagara River is in fact endangering Canadian lives now. In light of that, will the minister at least consider asking the U.S. Secretary of State, General Haig, to involve the U.S. military in this matter, since 50 per cent of the scientists in the United States work for the U.S. military? Will he at least ask General Haig, as this may be an area where he has some influence, at least to go into Niagara and to contain those sites which are now, today, endangering Canadian water supplies?

● (1450)

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman

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knows that the work of the IJC has not been hampered by the fact that we do not as yet have a permanent chairman on the Canadian side. We have an acting chairman, and the work of that committee is proceeding in the normal way. We have asked the American government not to allow any more pollutants to proceed into the Niagara River until such time as the sewage treatment plant is repaired. I want to assure the hon. member again that we will continue and broaden our representations.

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LOTTERIES

EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS TO ESTABLISH SPORTS POOL

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State who is responsible for amateur sports. Last December the minister asked committee to approve expenditures of over half a million dollars in order to set up his betting program on sports games. At that time he promised to give a breakdown of how that money was spent. He was once again reminded in January, but we still have not received it. When can we expect a breakdown on how he spent that half million dollars in setting up his betting program?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I presume that the hon. member, by mentioning a betting program, is referring to the proposed sports pool, for which I hope legislation will be introduced in the not distant future, here in the House.

An hon. Member: Is that like the wheat pool?

Mr. Epp: It is not betting?

Mr. Regan: The hon. member opposite says, "It is not betting, Gerry".

Mr. Epp: Is it not?

Mr. Regan: I want to respond to what the hon. member says by pointing out that it is quite a different matter to buy a sports pool ticket, such as a soccer pool ticket in England, where one uses one's knowledge of the sport to indicate the exact scores of a great number of games.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan: That is quite a different matter from betting on one individual game, particularly when the amount of money involved is \$1. However, coming back to the hon. member's question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan:—the funds which have been advanced have been used in determining the form of the Crown corporation which will operate the sports pool, and in the general preparations. I would suggest to the hon. member that it would be