Oral Ouestions

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA-CARLETON SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT—UPGRADING

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Tory Government to put its money where its mouth is.

Over recent weeks the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) has been telling the few people who are still willing to listen to him that he wants to clean up the environment. Now we can put this empty rhetoric to the test.

The Green Creek sewage treatment plant here in Ottawa-Carleton needs major upgrading and expansion which will cost \$399 million. This expenditure would result in a tax increase of 50 per cent for serviced households and businesses in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Yesterday the Chairman of the RMOC met with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in order to obtain federal assistance in a similar manner to other projects some time ago. Unfortunately, all he got from the Minister was "sympathetic consideration".

Sympathy is not enough. I call upon the Tory MPs from Ottawa-Carleton, especially the Associate Minister of Defence (Mr. Dick), to put their feet down and to tell the Minister of Finance that we need this money for a major environmental project. Otherwise, we will be forced to continue to believe what we already know, and that is that the Tory MPs from the Ottawa-Carleton area are as impotent as they have been in the past.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—PENALTY PROVISIONS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Trade may I direct a question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government with its customary arrogance intends to close down debate on the Prime Minister's trade deal at the very time that it is still being negotiated with the Americans.

Mr. Lewis: Not true.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I assume, in putting this question to the Deputy Prime Minister, that he and his Ministers have finally read the trade deal and the piece of legislation that they have deposited in Parliament and are prepared to answer some specific questions about the deal and the legislation.

Mr. Lewis: That's true.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Deputy House Leader nods and says "That's true", and we will see how we get along.

Article 1904.2 of the agreement states that any future antidumping law or countervail law of the United States becomes incorporated into the agreement between Canada and the United States. Clause 8(2) of the legislation tabled here in Parliament states that any Canadian who contravenes the legislation, or contravenes the accord, is guilty of an offence.

The Interpretation Act and the Criminal Code of Canada state when there is no other fine or no other imprisonment listed, the offence is a summary offence subject to a conviction of up to six months in iail.

Does the Deputy Prime Minister seriously expect Parliament to pass legislation which subjects Canadians to prison terms, not for violating Canadian law but for breaching American law, including future American law that we have not even seen yet?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the assertion by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is totally untrue. What we have put before opposition House Leaders is a proposal to deal with the trade Bill and other Bills in an orderly and co-operative fashion. The House Leaders of the other two Parties have seen fit not to accept our proposal, and our House Leader today has written another letter to the House Leader of the Liberal Party, copy to the House Leader of the New Democratic Party, opening the door for further negotiations.

• (1420)

With respect to the specific points which the right hon. gentleman has raised, if he want to make a second reading speech on the free trade Bill, C-130, he will have an opportunity next week.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Deputy Prime Minister can count on it, Mr. Speaker. I will be here for second reading and I will be making a speech.

PROVISION FOR IMPOSITION OF FINES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): I am asking a specific question. Why is the Deputy Prime Minister ramming through this legislation, the five-day limit on debate, forcing summer sittings, when this Bill includes fines and imprisonment, not for breaching Canadian law but for breaching the accord and for breaching future American trade law which has not even been passed by the Congress?

That is an absolute invasion of Canadian sovereignty. The Member from Brampton can laugh. He ought to read the agreement. He ought to read the Criminal Code. He ought to read the Interpretation Act. What I am saying will be borne out by a reading of those documents.