

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Deans:** There is no question about what happened.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, please.

## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** I want to ask the Prime Minister to think about the fact that we are not talking here only about what is legal; we are talking here about what is right. The Prime Minister has had a reputation of good faith about the reform of Parliament, and I want to ask him, for the sake of Parliament, will he do the honourable thing and at least refer it to the committee as the Hon. Member before me just requested, or even better than that, ask the Deputy Prime Minister to step down until this whole thing can be looked into. It is not a question of allegations, it is a question of a confession.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there has been no charge made. There is no allegation of illegality, or even impropriety, on the part of the Minister action 25 years ago, or thereabouts. Apart from the innuendo—

**Mr. Deans:** Why did you try to hide it?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Apart from the innuendo, which I think is unfair, and the spurious allegations, which I think are unworthy, if a charge is to be made I invite my honourable friend to make a charge, with the appropriate consequences.

## INQUIRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** The Government cannot have it both ways saying the charges have been denied but at the same time they are not serious. It is a question of the respect that we all have for Parliament. I want to ask the Prime Minister does he not think that on the second Wednesday of the "every" Wednesdays that the Deputy Prime Minister was stepping out of line and casting the very shadow across Parliament that we now need to get rid of.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I think the Hon. Member knows that that question is out of order.

\* \* \*

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## TOXIC CHEMICALS IN ST. CLAIR RIVER

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** My question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. I regret to say the Minister is creating the false impression that the proposed Environmental Contaminants Act will clean up the situation in the St. Clair River. Therefore I have to ask him whether he could explain to the House how this proposed Environmental Contaminants Act will clean up the existing toxic chemicals in the water, in the sewer outfalls, in the leachings from the

dump sites and other existing and ongoing sources of pollution in the St. Clair River, or for that matter in any body of water for which we have an international responsibility.

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the introduction of a new Environmental Contaminants Act will mesh with parallel plans already announced by the Hon. Jim Bradley, the Minister of the Environment in Ontario. Together our Act and their actions will cover every aspect of the toxic chemicals question, from production through to use, through to disposal. For example, in the case of the Ontario plan, limits will be placed on the amount of chemicals that will be allowed to be discharged into the river. Ambient quality standards will be set for water. In concert with my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the federal Government, for its part, will be setting vigorous drinking water standards. Together the total package will do everything that is required to hit the problem head on.

## PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** I would ask the Minister of the Environment to focus on the situation that we are facing today in the St. Clair River and the clean up of existing daily contaminations. Will he explain how his proposed Environmental Contaminants Act will tackle that problem?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** I never said the new Environmental Contaminants Act was designed to clean up existing pollutants in the river. We are doing that through other mechanisms, for example by working hand in glove with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The Environmental Contaminants Act is designed instead to prevent this kind of situation from happening in the future. We take the existing situation very seriously and we are taking actions to deal with it.

\* \* \*

## THE ADMINISTRATION

## INQUIRY OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** My question is also directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the information that is available in the transcript about what the Deputy Prime Minister said at that time, can the Prime Minister expect the people of Canada to have faith—

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Order, order, order.

**Mr. Murphy:** —to have faith in the integrity and judgment of the Deputy Prime Minister to use the enormous powers that he has—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Order, order. Forms and versions of this question have been asked all day. Order, please.

**An Hon. Member:** We have got to get some answers, Mr. Speaker.