

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET AREA MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, on June 3, in Montreal, the Government committed \$110 million to begin cleaning up the St. Lawrence River. That action has already begun. At the very least, would the Minister agree to meet with the Members whose ridings surround the Don River in order that we can get this project going there as well?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Secretary of State for Canada and Acting Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, of course we are devoted with equity to the depollution of every river in Canada, and there will be no discrimination, whatever the river is.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH
PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In his address to the United Nations Mr. Arafat made a clear call for peace in the Middle East and a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli impasse. He also amplified the Palestine National Council's November 15 acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the PNC's renunciation of terrorism, which met the two conditions which successive Canadian Governments have set for higher level diplomatic contacts with the PLO.

Canada's American and European allies have all responded publicly and favourably.

Does Canada plan to raise the level of its diplomatic contacts with the PLO to that of our American and European allies?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs and Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, we already have contacts with the PLO and with other Palestinians. Naturally, those contacts are of particular importance given the developments in the Middle East now.

We are intending no immediate change in the level or nature of those contacts, but we are naturally encouraged by developments which we think are important and positive in the Middle East, and intend to continue to look for opportunities for Canada to contribute in a constructive way to a durable and acceptable peace in that region.

Oral Questions

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

DE GRANDPRÉ COMMISSION—INTERIM REPORT ISSUE

Mr. David Barrett (Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca): Mr. Speaker, on page 51 of this week's *Hansard* there is a response from the Prime Minister to a question put by me concerning the committee reviewing the programs necessary for displaced workers as a consequence of the free trade deal.

As reported at page 51 of *Hansard* in response to my question about that committee, the Prime Minister admonished me to do the following:

"So if the Hon. Member would kindly wait until Friday and then for the final report . . ."

When the Prime Minister suggested to wait for Friday he was specifically referring to the interim report promised by this Government on this Friday from this committee.

Mr. Speaker, they misled the House about this interim report.

I ask the Minister of Trade is he aware that Mr. McCambly, a member of the committee, not only said that there is no interim report, but he went further and said if this report is going to be useful, it is needed right away. Did Mr. McCambly this morning say that he was mistaken, or did he insist that there is no need now for an interim report?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the Hon. Member who comes here with such a reputation engages simply in repetition and has not got an original thought of his own. The question was already asked this morning, and the answer is exactly as was given a few moments ago.

This morning we discussed with the de Grandpré committee whether or not an interim report was needed. We had an interim report from them given to the four or five Ministers who were present. It was decided that, in view of the situation as they found it, it would be better to wait for their final report, which will be coming along as soon as possible. It will not be very long before a final report is available, certainly well ahead of June. That is the way that we are going to proceed.