

Committees of the House

has been appointed to look into the CBC's new financial management system to determine what is wrong with it, whether or not it can be fixed, and what are appropriate solutions. The answers to those questions will help to determine if there is, or if there can be, the necessary public confidence in the financial management of the CBC. That report will be forthcoming in November.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

PHASING OUT OF LEAD IN GASOLINE

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. What criteria did his Government adopt in delaying the phase out of lead in gasoline until the end of 1992 despite the urging of many groups across the country that this would be damaging to the health of Canadians?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member said, the Minister of the Environment has taken a leading role in this issue and has clearly stated the period by which lead in gasoline would be removed. If the Member looks at that record I think that he will find it is well within the criteria that he also used when he was in government.

Mr. Caccia: If one looks at that record one really finds it very difficult to understand the decision.

ROYAL SOCIETY'S REPORT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Is he aware that the Royal Society points out, on page 111 of its report, that the phasing out of lead from gasoline can be achieved within three years? Why the delay until the end of 1992, which is against the public health interest of the nation?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the final report of the Royal Society of Canada's commission on lead was released on October 15 of this year. The Hon. Member should know that there were a number of recommendations, one of which he has mentioned here. For instance, there were 30 recommendations, a number of which apply to my Department. Among those issues, we are looking at lead in canned foods and how we can relate this to the industry. This goes back to 1975. When I look at that long period of time, we have been moving much faster in two years than the previous Government did since 1975.

DISARMAMENT

UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Last week the Prime Minister said that the Government told President Reagan before the Rejkavik Summit that Canada stood by the Secretary of State for External Affairs' January 23 statement that: "Our stance toward SDI research is rooted in the need to conform strictly with the provisions of the ABM treaty". In his meeting following Rejkavik, did the Secretary of State support the American position on star wars or did he stand by his Government's position that development outside the laboratory violates the ABM treaty?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is posing a distinction that does not exist. As he may know, I will be making a statement to the House tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock. Copies will be made available to his Party by nine o'clock in the morning. As he knows, this is a highly important and complex field. I look forward to there being an opportunity for the kind of informed and calm discussion on this question that has characterized the approach of this Parliament to these questions for most of the last two years.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): I wish the Secretary of State had answered my first question.

ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, does the Secretary of State for External Affairs want a superpower compromise that would allow ABM development or does he stand by his January 23 statement that: "To deviate from a policy of full compliance is to threaten the credibility and hence the viability of arms control"?

● (1500)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we believe the ABM Treaty should be strictly complied with. There should be no doubt about that. As the Hon. Member will know, being a close student of these matters, there is some question as to what precisely the ABM Treaty provides. That is a matter to which I will be referring tomorrow and I look forward to the participation of the Hon. Member, or representatives of his Party, on this very important and complex question.

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COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I wish to advise the House at this time that, pursuant to Section 5 of Standing Order 92, the Members