

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the preface was inelegant and tasteless and the question was false.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Coppes: You'd love to rewrite this one, wouldn't you?

Some Hon. Members: Shush.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF PROGRAMS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and it deals with the report released yesterday by the Royal Society and the U.S. National Research Council. I would like to ask the Minister more specific questions than those that were asked by the Hon. Member for Davenport.

Will the Minister fully reinstate the research that was associated with the herring gull program, and will he fully reinstate the proposal having to do with the Toxicology Research Centre in Guelph? Both those programs are in keeping with the recommendations for expanded support for research made by that report. It seems to me that the least the Government could do at this point is to announce the restoration of those programs.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I share the Hon. Member's high regard for both those programs. Regarding the first one, the Government has already restored much of the funding but I am looking very carefully at ways in which our limited budget can be applied to that area and related areas. I would like to stress, however, that those two programs, though worthy in themselves, would not deal with more than a small part of the total problem that was addressed by the report to which the Hon. Member made reference. We are looking at a broadly based approach to the total problem of toxic chemicals both in the Great Lakes and in other bodies of water.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, a broadly based approach is a good thing, but part of a broadly based approach is not only a legal approach in terms of amendments to the Environmental Contaminants Act but also a research based approach. I noticed that the Minister of Finance turned around to say no to the Minister of the Environment. I want to say to the Minister of the Environment—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Blaikie: I want to ask the Minister of the Environment—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Blaikie: Will he make a commitment now to restore those two programs? In particular, with respect to what he said about the herring gull program, he knows that only one out of the six people employed there has been rehired. That is the least he could do in response to this report—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I have caused a complete review to be made of all programs and policies within my Department in connection with various restraints including those presented by the Deputy Prime Ministerial task force on program review. I am assessing the two programs to which the Hon. Member has made reference in connection with that total review which I expect to be completed within the next six weeks.

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[Translation]

TEXTILE INDUSTRY

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT FOLLOW EXAMPLE OF EEC
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade.

Last November, two textile plants, Doric and Celanese, some of whose executives are here in the House today, merged to form the Monterey textile plant, their main purpose being to compete with cheap imports from Asia.

Has the Minister considered following the example of certain Common Market countries who have concluded bilateral agreements with Eastern European countries in the textile and clothing sector, for instance, West Germany has an agreement with Bulgaria, and there is also Turkey which subsidizes shipping costs. Does the Minister intend to follow that example or take other appropriate measures in order to enable Canadian companies . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his question was long enough.

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly aware that the Canadian Textile Institute is meeting here today and that it is its 50th anniversary. I congratulate the Institute on that.

Certainly we have every desire to assist the industry. We are doing this through the renegotiation of the multifibre agreement and entering into restraint agreements with individual countries with low-cost exports. In addition to that, we are prepared to assist the institute with its exports through our