

Order Paper Questions

on an extremely important matter. Also consistent with that Order, I will read to you the letter I sent to you earlier this morning. It reads:

The reason for the motion concerns the critical situation in Libya which potentially affects the lives of an estimated 1,300 Canadians.

In response to terrorist attacks, the Government of the United States launched an air attack yesterday against a number of locations including the capital city of Libya. The situation in the area, which has potential risk for Canadians, remains critically serious.

For this reason, I believe an emergency debate is required.

Mr. Speaker: I should advise the House that I have examined the Standing Order and the application has been made in conformity with procedure. I am, therefore, prepared to find that the application meets the requirements of Standing Order 29.

Does the Hon. Member have leave to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 29 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The House having given its consent, leave is granted and debate is set down for eight o'clock p.m. this day.

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[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 528.

[Text]

QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER

Question No. 528—Mr. Caccia:

1. Since the publication of the 1978 drinking water quality guidelines, what new drinking water standards have been developed and/or implemented in Canada?

2. By the end of 1986, what standards will be developed and/or implemented for chemical substances?

3. Does Canada subscribe to the drinking water quality guidelines developed by the World Health Organization and, if so, for what substances?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No national guidelines or standards have been developed since the "Guidelines for Canadian Water Quality: 1978" were published (in 1979). Officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare have, on request from provincial governments, developed interim guidelines for a number of additional parameters, including 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachlorodibenzodioxin (2, 3, 7, 8-TCDD), and octachlorodibenzodioxin, and the pesticides simazine, cyanazine, metribuzine, metolachlor, 2, 4-DB, dicamba, prometryn and alachlor (for Ontario), the pesticide

bromoxynil (for Manitoba) the pesticide aldicarb (for Quebec) and the pesticide carbofuran (for Alberta).

The Province of Ontario has also included an "interim limit" for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in its 1983 drinking water objectives and the Province of Quebec has included the additional pesticides carbofuran, diquat, fenitrothion, paraquat and picloram in its Drinking Water Regulations under the Environment Quality Act.

2. A federal-provincial committee is revising and expanding the current "Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, 1978". The following substances are being examined with a view to establishing guidelines:

asbestos	tetrachloroethylene	chlorobenzenes
arsenic	lead	gasoline
benzene	copper	PCBs
carbon tetrachloride	cyanide	benzo(a)pyrene
dichloromethane	hardness	dioxins
dichloroethylene	turbidity	
1,2-dichloroethane	trichloroethylene	trichlorophenols
trihalomethanes	1,1,1-trichloroethane	fluoride
PAHs	nitrate/nitrite	uranium
toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes		42 pesticides

It is expected that recommendations for approximately half of these chemicals will be finalized by the end of 1986.

3. The Department of National Health and Welfare played an active role in developing the 1984 World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines for drinking water quality. These guidelines specify values for a number of organic chemicals not included in the 1978 Canadian guidelines, these are benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, carbon tetrachloride, chlorobenzene, chlorophenols, 1, 2-dichloromethane, 1, 1-dichloroethene and tetrachloroethene. However, much of the information used as a basis for these guidelines was published and received much earlier than 1984. More recent information may indicate the need to revise some of the WHO recommendations, and this need is being carefully considered by the federal-provincial committee. Nevertheless, Canada would subscribe to those WHO recommendations for which Canadian guidelines do not now exist, until they are superseded by the new Canadian guidelines now being developed.

[Translation]

Mr. Lewis: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The question enumerated by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.