

Oral Questions

I think it can be said that, while we would have preferred that Saskatchewan hold its announcement until after the International Joint Commission report had come down, it is important for the hon. member and all hon. members to realize that there is no real comparison between the known damage which will be caused if the Garrison project goes ahead and the anticipated very minimal damage which might—but not for certain—be caused if the Poplar River project goes ahead. The International Joint Commission is studying the Poplar River project from the point of view of water pollution, and it has nothing at all to do with air emissions. I can tell the hon. member and the House that so far as the air emission situation from the Poplar River plant is concerned, those emissions will meet standards both in Canada and in the United States.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, will the minister inform this House whether he intends to make representations to the NDP government in Saskatchewan to introduce high control standards for pollution for this specific project?

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that there have been extensive ongoing discussions between the Department of the Environment and the government of the province of Saskatchewan. We have its undertakings to place more stringent controls, if that proves necessary.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST THAT CANADA JOIN OECD SUBCOMMITTEE ON MARINE CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Serge Joyal (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the fact that in the Speech from the Throne, the government promised to reactivate our shipbuilding industry, does it intend to ask for a change in Canada's status on the OECD subcommittee on shipbuilding, since its two potential competitors, Sweden and Japan, are full-fledged members, while Canada has only an observer status?

● (1440)

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take that question as a representation and get back to the hon. member.

[Mr. Fraser.]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**DANGER TO HEALTH OF CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION**

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but in his absence I will address it to the right hon. Prime Minister. Before I ask my question I should like to note, briefly, initial fears that PCBs were involved in the Mississauga train wreck and the fact that the Mississauga city council had banned the burning of PCBs within its boundaries. These are reminders, if any are still needed, of the grave danger to human health posed by chemical contamination.

In light of the above, I should like to ask the minister what has been the progress of the investigation carried out by officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare and of the Department of Agriculture into the contamination of livestock feed and, subsequently, of some poultry products which was discovered last month on the lower British Columbia mainland. How thorough has this investigation been?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the absence, due to illness, of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I will have to take that question as notice. I hope that either the minister or I will be able to reply at the earliest opportunity.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE, U.S.A.**

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. As the minister is aware, environmental hearings are proceeding on the Pittson application to build a refinery in Eastport, Maine, with the next hearing under the auspices of the U.S. environmental protection agency to be held in Boston on January 6 or 7. Can the minister advise the House if it is Canada's intention to have an observer present, and if the government has been in touch with the U.S. authorities or the Pittson group since he took office concerning Canada's objection to the Pittson project?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that a Canadian observer will be present. I can also tell the House that in August I met with the environmental protection agency chief, the hon. Doug. Costle, and reiterated Canada's absolute and very strong objection to the project which the hon. member has raised.