

CRTC reports. According to information appearing in the press today, the CRTC has instructed radio and television stations that, in preparing their itemized reports on foreign and Canadian content in their programming, our Queen's Christmas message to the Commonwealth is to figure as "foreign content".

Would the minister inquire into the accuracy of this particular information? If it should prove to be correct, would he ensure that that instruction is withdrawn, because surely the new chairman of the CRTC, because of his academic background, must know the position of the Queen in Canada and of Canada in the Commonwealth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that instruction. I would be very surprised if, in fact, it were true. But I would want to check the accuracy of it first, so I will immediately inquire of the CRTC and see what necessary action can be taken to correct it.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

CANADIAN DELEGATION FOR BILATERAL TRADE MEETING WITH MEXICO

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): My question is for the Prime Minister. In the week of November 26 there took place in Guanajuato, Mexico, an important bilateral trade meeting among the Canadian Association for Latin America and senior ministers of the Mexican government—considered extremely significant by the Mexican government—hosted by the minister of patrimony, with the delegation to be received by the President.

In light of his answer to my colleague, the hon. member for Outremont, about ministers going there on the oil agreement, could the Prime Minister explain to the House why, despite the insistence of the Canadian ambassador to Mexico and the insistence of the Mexican ambassador to Canada that a senior economic minister head our delegation to that meeting, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce refused to go, the Minister of International Trade refused to go, and we in fact sent a junior official with the rank of director general, further indicating the incompetence and indifference of this government to international trade and to Mexico in particular?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the allegation regarding the specific matter raised by the hon. member. I can assure the hon. member that the language he has used to describe relations between Canada and Mexico, if it ever applied—and I doubt that it did apply with accuracy—certainly does not apply to the relations between this government and the government of Mexico, as will be indicated by the visit of senior ministers of this government to Mexico for significant and wide-ranging discussions next

month, and the visit of the President of Mexico here later next year.

An hon. Member: In the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Clark: I hear one member opposite talking about Christmas holidays. I should take the opportunity to warn him that unless the obstruction stops on the other side of the House, there will not be any.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stollery: He is warning us. I am not afraid.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLICY RESPECTING USE OF PCBs IN CANADA

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of the Environment in connection with the hearings completed yesterday by the review board responsible for polychlorinated biphenyls, PCBs. It stems from the fact that PCBs do pose a threat to human health because of their toxicity, their persistence in the environment and the fact that they accumulate in the food chain. I would like the minister to tell this House what his policy is and that of his government with respect to discontinuing the use of PCBs in Canada and the disposal of existing PCBs in the near future.

Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the objective of the government is to discontinue the use entirely of PCBs and the regulations will forbid any new use of PCBs. With respect to PCBs that are presently used in transformers, the policy is to phase them out through a process of attrition.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBLE INVESTMENT OF \$200 MILLION IN INDUSTRIAL PARK AT BÉCANCOUR, QUEBEC

Mr. Jean-Louis Leduc (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. It concerns the Laprade plants and the \$200 million the former government granted it in compensation. I should like to know whether the present government, in its negotiations with the Quebec government, insists that those \$200 million be used mostly in the Bécancour industrial park.