

● (1405)

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

GUELPH TOXICOLOGY CENTRE—CANCELLATION OF FUNDING

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan) told chemical industry representatives that "we know virtually nothing about the health and environmental impact of 80 per cent of the 800 chemicals known to exist in the Great Lakes". At the same time the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Andre) defended changes to the Patent Act on the basis that not changing the law would jeopardize the future of a great many young scientists.

If these two statements truly reflect the Government's concern, one wonders why it cancelled funding for the Toronto-Guelph Toxicology Centre that would answer questions about the 800 chemicals in the Great Lakes and would provide a future for young scientists. If the Government means business, it should reinstate the funds for the Toxicology Centre it cancelled in November, 1984. How else can we take seriously those two Ministers of the Crown?

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TRADE

UNITED STATES DUTY ON CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER—
CANADIAN PROPOSAL

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, the dispute with Americans on softwood lumber exports continues to occupy our thoughts and attention. The issue is still being decided through the required steps in the U.S. courts.

Because of the seriousness of the effect of the action taken by the United States lumber industry, it was necessary for the Governments of Canada, federal and provincial, to become involved. Thus the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney), with the backing of provincial Premiers, albeit one reluctant Premier, put forward a proposal to the U.S. Commerce Secretary that would result in an out of court settlement. This entails a commitment on our part to raise various fees to a 15 per cent rate equal to the assessment made earlier by the Department of Commerce.

I read in this morning's paper that U.S. Commerce Secretary Baldrige endorses this plan and will be taking it forward on our behalf to the U.S. lumber industry. We compliment the Minister along with the provincial Premiers for this proposal which we trust will lead to a solution for a most difficult problem.

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EMPLOYMENT

NUMBER OF WOMEN IN TRAINING PROGRAMS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, a recent study done by the Canadian Congress on Learning Opportunities for Women showed that between 1977 and 1985 the number of women in federal job-training programs dropped by 10 per cent. Short-term training programs under the Canada Jobs Strategy are not serving women adequately. The practice of contracting out training programs does not protect spaces for women, and it is a well-known fact that the training programs of employers favour men.

Immigrant and visible minority women, at their recent conference, repeatedly criticized the federal Government for not having more language and job-training programs combined with child care and counselling. Women from remote areas have little access to training or educational programs. Many women are trapped forever in low-paying and part-time jobs because of the requirement that they be unemployed and out of the labour force to qualify for training.

Token words spoken by First Ministers are not good enough. The Government must adequately fund relevant training for women, along with child care.

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REFUGEES

ADMISSION FROM AFGHANISTAN OF SOVIET DEFECTORS

Mr. John Oostrom (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, again, as in 1979 during the turmoil in Iran, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) deserves our hearty congratulations. Through his sheer determination in dealing with a volatile geographical area of the world, he was successful in obtaining the release of five Soviet Army defectors from Afghanistan. This task was extremely complex since it involved overcoming overwhelming bureaucratic obstacles and the fact that no country wanted to assist them in crossing the border due to potential retaliation by the forces conducting an immoral war in Afghanistan.

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These five defectors are solid proof that the Soviets are not succeeding in convincing even their own soldiers that this war is just. Their statements show the barbarity and brutality exhibited by the Soviets towards the Afghans in order to enforce the slavery that Communism brings to all the people it has touched. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has again shown the world that Canada will always assist those who seek freedom. We should all applaud his actions.