

Oral Questions

riding, Canadian International Paper, was on the list, and that 30 older workers will benefit under this program.

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[English]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and is with regard to the tire fire in my riding.

While the federal government should not be interfering unless asked with provincial and municipal attempts to extinguish the fire, the federal government has the mandate through Emergency Preparedness Canada and the responsibility to monitor the fire, to be there, to know what is going on. The minister does not need a special invitation from the province of Ontario to do this. On Friday we saw a communication foul up between Ottawa and Toronto, wasting time and effort.

Would the minister not agree that these problems could be overcome if federal officials responsible for co-ordinating the federal response were on site so that these problems do not continue to happen?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we have not waited for the member's comments to do that. We are doing exactly that now.

We have three scientists on the site now monitoring and analysing the air quality. We have people from Environment Canada on the site as well. There is a representative of the Canadian army there also monitoring the situation and getting ready to step in if we are requested to go there. We have also set up a task force at the federal level to co-ordinate the federal response to this disaster.

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, I am saying that there should be somebody there from the federal government co-ordinating its response.

My supplementary question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The minister should be aware that both the Six Nations and the Mississauga of the New Credit reserves are close to the fire. In fact they were one of the first areas evacuated.

What is the federal government's responsibility to federally regulated reserves during an environmental disaster such as this one? Why haven't federal officials from the minister's department been to the Six Nations to evaluate the situation there?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am told that our officials have been in communication with the chief of the Six Nations. We are well aware of the environmental difficulty there, and we are monitoring the situation very carefully.

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JUSTICE

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice and concerns a very serious question of racial discrimination which affects everyone in this House.

Yesterday B'nai Brith released its 1989 audit report indicating an increase in anti-Semitism in Canada. In fact it estimated by the number of reported cases that anti-Semitism has gone up by 57 per cent. There is also a great deal of acrimony that it has not seen before.

I would like to ask the minister what his ministry and members of this government are doing to help the association end the perception that those disseminating messages of hate need not fear prosecution. Can he not improve Canadian law to fight such outrageous behaviour?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend will know the Criminal Code prohibits the wilful promotion of hatred against identifiable groups. I am not trying to slide off the issue by suggesting that the attorneys general of the various provinces are in charge of prosecuting that under the Criminal Code. They have the full co-operation of my department wherever it occurs.