

Oral Questions

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think the representation made by the Hon. Member for Davenport is not an unreasonable one. The priority of the Government of Canada is, of course, first, to ensure the safe storage of PCBs everywhere in the country under federal jurisdiction and provincial jurisdiction alike and, second, to ensure their expeditious incineration or destruction, for which purpose the Member knows I have announced a major funding project and also a set of regulations that will apply across the land. Obviously, if we can get PCBs out of use and destroyed, the need for the kind of transport of PCBs to which he makes reference will be mitigated.

In the meantime we do have the problem at hand and I think the suggestion the Member has made is both reasonable and a recommendation that the Government should take seriously, and it will.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Davenport on a short supplemental.

REQUEST THAT EXPORT OF PCBs BE OUTLAWED

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, the Minister will realize that this is an important element missing in his Government's recently announced PCB policy. Therefore, in the light of his answer I would like to ask when the Minister thinks he will be in a position to announce that the export of PCBs will be effectively made illegal out of Canada. What date, approximately?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member for Davenport will appreciate that it is a very complex issue. This is the first time, I think, he has himself or his Party made the recommendation he now has put on record. In any event, if it were done through the normal course, through regulation, it would probably take several months to take effect. It is possible it could be accomplished under Section 35 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act through an interim order which would, to some extent, short-circuit the process in favour of the environment.

I will consult with my officials and scientists to see if that would be a commendable course. If it is, the Member can be assured it will be done with some dispatch. Again, it is an issue about which I have to consult my colleagues, the Minister of Transport, and my federal colleagues, generally.

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[Translation]

STATUS OF WOMEN

QUERY WHETHER MINISTER CONSULTS IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Department

responsible for the status of women is preparing an interdepartmental report on immigrant women. This document is certainly intended as a tool for developing policies on immigrant women and visible minorities.

Can the Minister tell us if he is presently consulting with immigrant women's groups and associations to ensure that the report benefits from their expertise and experience?

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I cannot reply specifically to that question. I will take it on notice for the particular Minister. I just want to remind the Hon. Member that a number of proposals and programs especially for immigrant women, for their health and second language education, have been in place, but the specifics of the question I will take back to the Minister.

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS

Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, this is an interdepartmental report that has been commissioned. We know in the past this Government has not consulted with immigrant women and visible minorities. I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare if he could assure this House that immigrant women and visible minority women would be consulted before the report is sent to the printers.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, what the Hon. Member has said is simply not the fact.

Ms. Dewar: It is.

Mr. Epp (Provencher): It is not the fact. I have met with them on various issues. I know that the Minister of Multiculturalism has met with them as has the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

● (1450)

I will take the specifics of the exact question back to the Minister, but the Member should not make a blanket statement saying we have not consulted when in fact that has been the case. She would have more credibility if she stuck with the facts rather than using the kind of preamble that she did.

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PUBLIC WORKS

MOISIE LAND SALE—FORMER OFFICIAL'S LETTER

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Public Works whose office has refused to give information on the Moisie land deal to my office since July of this year. I remind him that I wrote to him at that time.