

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, the Government promised 90 per cent topping up. It is obvious that is not there. Over and above that there are areas in Newfoundland, the Territories, and other provinces which do not have an infrastructure for child care which need that 90 per cent topping up. I would like the Minister to tell this House why the Government has broken its promise on this.

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member wants to make that representation she may do so in committee as soon as this legislation goes through the House. She and all Members of the House will have the opportunity to make whatever representations and amendments they want to put before the House. I hope she will help the legislation get through as rapidly as possible, as a responsible Member would do.

\* \* \*

## NUCLEAR ENERGY

## FERMI II NUCLEAR PLANT IN MICHIGAN—LEAK OF RADIOACTIVE STEAM

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Detroit Edison Company operates the Fermi II nuclear generating plant in Munroe, Michigan, just a few miles from hundreds of thousands of Canadians in the Windsor-Essex County area.

Two weeks ago the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the United States gave that plant a very bad report card saying it was operating at minimally acceptable levels in five key categories. Last Saturday we learned there was a leak of radioactive steam from that plant and that it has been closed down temporarily.

Will the Government insist that the U.S. Government not allow that plant to re-open until it is absolutely certain, on the basis of it being satisfactory to Canadian authorities, that there is no risk to the health and safety of Canadians in the operations of that plant? In particular, will the Government ask that there be a special inspection of that plant by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the concerns that have been raised by the Member for Windsor West. Those concerns have been raised by a number of Canadians and we have conveyed them to the United States administration.

It is important to note that all Members in this House share a public concern about the operations of Fermi II. As a result of that, Canadian officials have asked the United States

## Oral Questions

administration to consider placing Fermi II under an appropriate IAEA safety mechanism for a review, specifically to take into consideration what has happened during the past weekend.

● (1430)

## REQUEST FOR MONITORING BY INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, in light of what happened this past weekend, will the Government on an urgent basis reiterate the need for an International Atomic Energy Agency inspection? Second, will the Government accept my request that the Government have the Americans agree to a permanent reference to the International Joint Commission of the inspection and monitoring on an ongoing binational basis of this Fermi II plant so that there will be assurances to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians living all too near to Fermi II, that if it is allowed to operate again, it will not be any threat to their health and safety?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, as I have already said, the Canadian Government has raised with the United States administration the matter of steam leaks and other occurrences at the Fermi II plant. We have asked that it be reviewed under the IAEA.

The Member suggests that this be done under the IJC. We thought it would probably be better under the multilateral standards, but we will certainly take his suggestion into consideration.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT DEMAND CLOSURE OF PLANT

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. I want to pursue the question asked by the Member for Windsor. After months during which Atomic Energy Board of Canada and the Government refused to act at all in any serious way, we are pleased to hear that a reference to the IAEA has been made.

This plant has been described as a dinosaur of the industry, and the worst in the country by NRC officials themselves. It has been described as an accident waiting to happen. Within two days of the publication of the evaluation that showed its operational efficiency in five areas was the worst possible, there was another radioactive steam leak.

Will the Government demand of the U.S. Government that this plant be closed down until this evaluation takes place?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that we have conveyed our concerns to the United States and made certain suggestions about how to deal with the Fermi II plant. The Hon. Member goes on to make a further suggestion.

We have asked that the matter of steam leaks and other occurrences be considered within the broad parameters of the