

S.O. 22

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 22

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CALL FOR NEGOTIATION OF AIR POLLUTION TREATY WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in 1909 we signed the Boundary Waters Treaty with the United States. Article 4(2) says:

That boundary waters and waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health and property on the other.

The same principle, Mr. Speaker, should apply to air. We need a treaty on transboundary air pollution. The first step in this direction took place in 1980 when the United States signed a memorandum of intent with us. The acid rain envoys chose not to build on the memorandum of intent and thus made, in my view, a serious mistake.

Today, and every day, because of the prevailing winds, the United States is still causing transboundary environmental interference. Every day the United States is still causing serious economic damage to Canada. Despite the progress of science and technology it is not possible to change the direction of prevailing winds. We are thus the recipients of sulphur dioxide emissions from the United States, millions of tons per year.

Next March the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will meet the President of the United States again. Thus the action on acid rain shifts to the top. The Prime Minister chose this course of action, and we wish him well. We will applaud him if he succeeds with a reduction plan of substance. If he does not, then he can blame the prevailing winds or, to be consistent with his statement Sunday, he can always blame the media.

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INCOME TAX ACT

LANGUAGE USED IN WORDING OF SECTION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, to date the Government has failed to act on its promise to simplify the tax system so I can only conclude that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) understands Section 127 of the Income Tax Act which reads:

In applying Subsection (9) in respect of

(a) a qualified property or qualified transportation equipment acquired after November 16, 1978 or qualified construction equipment acquired after April 19, 1983, the references in paragraphs (a) and (b) thereof to "5%" shall be read as references to "7%", the references in paragraphs (a.1) and (b.1) thereof to "5%" shall be read as references to "13%" and the references in paragraphs (a.2) and (b.2) thereof to "2.5%" shall be read as references to "3%";

(b) a qualified expenditure incurred by a taxpayer after November 16, 1978 and before his taxation year that includes November 1, 1983, or a qualified expenditure incurred by him in that taxation year or a subsequent taxation year if he deducted an amount under Section 37.1 in computing his income for the year,

(i) where the expenditure was incurred by a Canadian-controlled private corporation in a taxation year of the corporation in which it is or would, if it had sufficient taxable income for the year, be entitled to a deduction under Section 125 in computing its tax payable under this Part for the year, the references in paragraphs (a) and (b) thereof to "5%" shall be read as references to "25%" and the references in paragraphs (a.1), (a.2), (b.1) and (b.2) thereof—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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FISHERIES

DAMAGE CAUSED BY GRAY SEALS TO EAST COAST FISHERY

Mr. Lawrence I. O'Neil (Cape Breton Highlands-Canso): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight once again the economic damage to the East Coast fishery being inflicted by the gray seals.

Proliferation of seals and seal worms has been a major concern over the past few years. To outline the gravity of this situation, the following points must be made. The seal population along the Nova Scotia coastline is approximately 100,000 animals; one gray seal consumes 3,200 pounds of fish annually; total consumption of fish by seals along the Nova Scotia coastline exceeds 200 million pounds annually; the Sable Island herd will increase by 12,000 in 1986, and an immediate control kill is required to reduce the seal population.

A major policy decision must be made to decrease the size of the herd and place controls limiting future growth. With the push for quality enhancement, it is difficult to achieve high quality without addressing this problem.

In addition, extensive damage is being done to fishermen's gear by the seal population. Nets and traps are being destroyed by these animals.

I commend the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Siddon) for his recent comments to the effect that he is prepared to address this problem, and I encourage all Members of the House to support the Minister in this respect.

● (1405)

This problem threatens the viability of the Atlantic fishery and therefore the backbone of the Atlantic economy. It is time for all of us to acknowledge—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member his time has expired.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REPEAT BROADCAST OF "NEAT TO BE DEAD" SONG

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I made a statement concerning the CBC's irresponsibility in broadcasting a song with the theme that it is "neat to be dead", in which children expound on the virtues of death. In