

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

## DISASTERS

## SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN UKRAINE—CANDU SAFETY FEATURES

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, the accident at a Russian reactor site near Kiev should not, and cannot, be discussed in such a way so that all reactors in the world will be considered to be the same. The design and safety features of the Russian reactor in question are considerably different from Canada's CANDU reactor. The safety features of the CANDU reactor are proven and outstanding.

We understand that the Russian reactor is a graphite-moderated reactor. We also understand that there is a fire in the reactor. Such a situation could not happen in a CANDU reactor because we use heavy water as a moderator.

The CANDU reactor has barriers of concrete between the reactor vessel and the environment. These barriers would trap any potential radiation leak. We use heavy water as a moderator instead of graphite. Heavy water will not burn. Therefore, there could not be a fire. At the same time, the CANDU has concrete shields for added safety from potential radiation.

At Pickering, Ontario—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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## PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

## ENUMERATION OF ELECTORS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on an issue of critical importance to concerned British Columbians.

With a provincial election looming on the horizon the enumeration of eligible voters is now at an end. Voters lists have now been tallied. The results are farcical—a sham. Bill Bennett's Government has been so niggardly with money for the enumeration that there are now 500,000 fewer names on the voters' list than there were for the last provincial election.

It is also more difficult to get on the voters' list now than it was before. If one cannot get to a registration office oneself, then one will not get on the list. If one moves between now and the election then one probably will not have the right to vote.

It seems that Bill Bennett and his scandal-ridden regime are afraid to face the verdict of all British Columbians. I urge

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everyone who wants to give the boot to Mr. Bennett and his cronies to get on the list. Democracy is too precious to be left to the scheming, manipulative machinations of Bill Bennett and his Government.

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## DISASTERS

## SOVIET NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT IN UKRAINE—SAFETY STANDARDS INVESTIGATION URGED

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, the nuclear disaster in Ukraine yesterday has become an international issue due to the detection of high levels of radiation in countries bordering the Soviet Union. Experts have already indicated to us that the safety standards in place in the Soviet nuclear power station were less than acceptable. There is now fear that radiation fall-out could reach as far as North America.

I urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) to follow every avenue at his disposal to bring about a full multi-nation investigation into Soviet safety standards in nuclear power. This disaster could cost many lives. It is time that the Soviet Union put the rights of its peoples and the peoples of the world above technological short-cuts.

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[Translation]

## REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

## POSSIBLE EMPLOYEE LAY-OFFS AT NORTHERN TELECOM IN AYLMER, P.Q.—POSSIBLE FORMATION OF COMMON FRONT

**Mrs. Claudy Mailly (Gatineau):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Centre (Mr. Cassidy) is making political capital at the expense of workers at Northern Telecom in Aylmer. The facts are not at all like that.

On March 25, I met with union representatives from Northern Telecom in my riding office. I suggested a meeting with the Hon. Member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) and forming a common front with federal and provincial members and mayors of municipalities. I advised the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) of the problem.

On April 18, I received a letter from the national union saying that it preferred a personal commitment from all these people instead of a common front.

Meanwhile, the union local wanted a common front but did not pursue the idea, probably under pressure from its national union.

Northern Telecom's decision was made on the basis of product demand. Furthermore, unlike what was claimed by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre, jobs will not be transferred