

Oral Questions

I may add that I am regularly in touch with the President of the Montreal East Survival Committee, and that he understands what is being done. We are keeping him informed on all developments in this case.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET CHAIRMAN OF MONTREAL
EAST SURVIVAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister.

If he is regularly in touch with the President of the Survival Committee, perhaps he would agree to meet with him as he intends to come to the Hill next week and would like to see the Minister to discuss the Government's response to the Survival Committee's proposals.

Could the Minister inform the House whether he would agree to meet with the President of the Survival Committee?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, every time I was asked to meet with the President of the Survival Committee and his colleagues, I always accepted. And I shall therefore be delighted to meet him if he comes here next week. In fact, I have many times offered to meet him on a Friday when I am in Montreal to look after the Montreal Government Members Committee and various projects which are proceeding very well, I can assure you, at this time.

Mr. Nystrom: It is time to act.

* * *

[English]

SPACE RESEARCH

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED STATES PROGRAM

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. All Canadians were touched by yesterday's tragic event over the skies of Florida. Can the Minister assure the House that Canada will continue its valuable contribution to the American space program despite the recent tragic event?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. It gives me the opportunity to express my personal regret at the events of yesterday.

There will be no interruption in terms of Canada's ongoing space programs. Many new efforts which the Government may wish to initiate into new space adventures are in a very preliminary evaluation and planning stage and I see no interruption in that effort.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO'S WATER SUPPLY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday's Ontario Government's report showed, through the use of independent monitoring, what previous Government tests had not. Not only do residents of southwestern Ontario face the threat of inundation by dioxin-containing flood waters but they are drinking dioxin-containing waters right now.

When will the Minister announce his promised program for the control of chemical contaminants of the environment? Will the plan include a national safe drinking water act, and an emergency initiative to produce a federal-provincial program to improve the purification of water systems in municipalities, including the use of activated carbon filters?

● (1450)

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the short answer is that we will be introducing a new Environmental Contaminants Act that will address all the concerns that the Hon. Member raised which are within federal jurisdiction. Some of them, of course, are within provincial and municipal jurisdictions.

I should caution the Member, however, that even though we are very concerned, as is the Ontario Government, he should put this matter into perspective. It is not a matter of finding something in the water that was not there before. It is a matter, instead, of science reaching the point where it can detect certain things that could not be detected before. In fact, if one were to express the quantity of the substance found in terms of time instead of weight, it would be equivalent to one second in 32 centuries. In short, it is minute, it is sporadic, and it is not harmful.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

* * *

ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE—MINISTER'S TELEX TO OIL COMPANIES

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have recognized the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys. I thought that the Hon. Member for Windsor-Walkerville had asked all the questions that had to be asked about that particular question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McCurdy: He asked for a supplementary question.