

S.O. 21

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

STATEMENTS BY MR. MCKNIGHT ON COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE
BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, yesterday's *Hansard* shows that the Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight), while posing a question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy), said twice; "The Minister has not spent several hours in the Standing Committee on Transport since he has become Minister."

This kind of statement cannot go unchallenged, especially when the Hon. Member who made such a false statement is on the Transport Committee. He knows that the Minister of Transport has already appeared before the Transport Committee four times—August 23, September 7, February 7, and March 22. He has never refused to come to the Transport Committee when asked.

He also knows that the Minister, as soon as he was appointed to his new portfolio, flew to Quebec City to join the committee when it was holding hearings on Bill C-155. On the same day the Minister held an informal meeting with the members of the Transport Committee, offering his co-operation in solving transportation problems for the good of the country. The Hon. Member for Kindersley-Lloydminster should do the honourable thing, and either withdraw his false statements or make a new statement setting the record straight.

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INDUSTRY

EXPORT OF LOGS—EFFECT ON PLYWOOD MILL

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, 130 workers from Victoria Plywood face a bleak future since the indefinite closure of the mill last December. In the meantime, the mill owner, Pacific Forest Products, is exporting logs, but plywood workers cannot get details of these exports.

● (1410)

Officials from the Department of External Affairs, which issues the export permits, refused to release this information. They claimed the details of the export permits were confidential, that to release these details would undermine Pacific Forest Products' competitive position. Now they are reviewing the situation.

Canadian workers have to compete with workers throughout the world. One factor that should give them a competitive edge is our forest resource. By exporting unprocessed logs we destroy this edge for our workers. We are exporting jobs.

The Government should be more concerned to protect Canadian jobs than to preserve company profits for companies like Pacific Forest Products.

I call on the Government to take the following steps. First, provide full access to all details of log export permits. Second,

take action to prohibit the export of unprocessed logs. Third, develop a Ministry of Forestry which could develop aggressive marketing to expand sales of processed forest products into North Africa—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DAMAGE CAUSED BY ACID RAIN—GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

Mrs. Eva Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Minister of the Environment and Ministers from nine European countries made a commitment last week, at an international conference on acid rain, to reduce sulphur emissions above their territories by 30 per cent between now and 1993. They will also reduce the amount of nitrogen but did not specify by what percentage. The House is aware that these two chemicals are the main cause of air pollution.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Canadians and especially on behalf of Quebecers, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Canadian Government on hosting this Canada-Europe conference on acid rain. Representatives of the ten countries discussed the urgency of preventing serious damage by acid rain to our natural environment, especially forests and bodies of water.

This first international attempt to reduce air pollution was called a historic moment by the Environment Ministers who met in Ottawa last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the Canadian Government for having shown once again its commitment to improving our quality of life.

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[English]

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PURCHASE OF FRENCH BUTTER

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned, and I am sure all Canadians are concerned as well, to see that the Department of External Affairs has been buying French butter at \$10 a pound for one of its so-called posh restaurants in the External Affairs Building. This is indeed a slap in the face to our dairy industry.

To make matters worse, it has been found that this butter was imported illegally into Canada, at a time when butter production in Canada is at an all-time high and has been selling at discount prices in supermarkets in an effort to cut down the surplus.