

Oral Questions

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows very well that there is a process which has been set up through the process of parliamentary reform to scrutinize all government Order in Council appointments. If the Hon. Member has something to raise about this or any other appointment made by this Government, that is the place to do it, not the way he does it here under the screen of allegations, innuendoes, and smear.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—UNITED STATES OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS**

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question on another subject altogether, if I might be so bold. It concerns something far more important, the survival of the Canadian environment. My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and has to do with remarks made by the American Interior Secretary, Mr. Hodel, now complemented by remarks by Congressmen John Dingell, having to do with the fact that Canada's concern for acid rain abatement in the United States can be reduced to a conspiracy on our part to sell more hydro power to the United States. Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs say in this House, here and now, on behalf of all Canadians, and clearly to our American neighbours, that that is a lie?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that would be unparliamentary.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): But it is certainly false.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, as far as I know the rules do not prohibit the Secretary of State for External Affairs from saying things about people outside this House.

Mr. Speaker: One can take judicial notice in this Chamber of the very intense feelings of Canadians with respect to the acid rain problem. There is, of course, a rule that certain things ought not to be said about representatives of a friendly country and I would ask the Hon. Member to keep that in mind.

Mr. Blaikie: Well, you have to wonder who your friends are when they continue to poison your environment the way the Americans are poisoning ours.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, given the fact that we have tens of thousands of lakes which are already dead or dying, that our water-fowl are dying, and that our forest growth has been reduced by 66 per cent, what

other avenues does the Government have in mind, litigious or otherwise? We know the Americans were able to reach a deal with Mexico on the basis of a court case brought by six asthmatic Americans. Is the Government considering any new action in this regard which might bring the Americans to the table, admit we have a problem, and get down to serious acid rain abatement on the other side of the 49th parallel?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the short answer is that the Americans are already at the table. The Prime Minister of Canada will be raising at the forthcoming summit in Ottawa with the President of the United States, just as he has done so at the two previous summits, Canadians' grave concern about the pollution of the environment by American sources of acid rain-causing emissions.

May I say while I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, that though I share the Hon. Member's concern and, indeed, outrage, at the utterances of people like Mr. Hodel, I think it is inaccurate to draw a parallel between the all-encompassing agreement we are seeking with our American neighbours, on the one hand, and that which the Americans have reached with the Mexicans. All the requirements in connection with the U.S.-Mexico agreement are imposed on Mexico, not on the United States. That is exactly the opposite of what we are seeking.

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● (1450)

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD**PAROLE GRANTED TO DOMINIC MUSITANO**

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, the entire region of Hamilton—Wentworth and I have given notice of the following question which is directed to the Solicitor General.

In view of the parole of Dominic Musitano two years after a court sentenced him to six years' imprisonment as an accessory after the fact of an organized crime murder, and since Musitano was granted parole despite warnings by the Hamilton Police Department that "He represents a threat to the citizens of this region", and despite the objections of the area manager of the Parole Division of Correctional Services that "We do not believe he is a candidate for early release", and despite community concerns that such a release jeopardizes the safety of law-abiding Canadians, why has this man been paroled?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that under the law Mr. Musitano was in fact eligible for parole. It was a decision of the National Parole Board which has exclusive jurisdiction in these matters. I cannot in any way overturn, overrule, or amend its decisions. I have asked for a copy of the decision,