

*Oral Questions***URBAN AFFAIRS**

PURIFICATION BY OUTAOUAIS SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the Outaouais regional sewage treatment plant is scheduled for construction commencing June 1, can the minister assure the House that all precautions and required measures have been taken to ensure that all harmful viruses and various chemicals in the sewage will be removed by the plant?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice.

Mr. Yewchuk: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that experts in the field of sewage treatment have declared that this plant will not do these things and is outdated before it begins, can the minister indicate whether he is willing to re-examine the possibility of redesigning the plant? If not, what logic is there in building a plant which will not do the job and is outdated before it gets off the ground?

Mr. Ouellet: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to study this matter.

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COMBINES

FACTS SURROUNDING URANIUM CARTEL

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister: it centres around the unfortunate uranium cartel incident. On August 5, 1977, the Prime Minister told the House the following:

We will put every fact we have before parliament so it can debate this matter properly.

Will the Prime Minister tell the House, now, when he proposes to put the facts before us in respect of the uranium cartel, in view of the fact that a motion asking for certain documents to be produced was talked out by his Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources last night?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will send me a copy of the context in which I said that, perhaps I will be able to enlighten him further. My recollection is that the House was debating the policy itself and denying our claim that it had helped the uranium industry, helped to preserve jobs in Canada and, indeed, was a farsighted act which permitted the Canadian uranium industry to be in a good posture.

Mr. Clark: It broke the law.

Mr. Trudeau: I said that at any time we would be prepared to debate this policy. I think there are several opposition days left before the end of June. Why does the opposition not take a day to quarrel with our uranium policy?

Mr. Clark: Table the documents.

[Mr. Lessard.]

Mr. Trudeau: We will put all the answers and facts before the House at that time.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the United States department of justice, following an 18-month grand jury inquiry, has indicted certain officials in the Gulf Oil corporation in respect of their participation in an illegal cartel, would the Prime Minister tell the House if the government has contacted in one way or another the White House, the American state department or the American department of justice regarding the grand jury findings and requested, on a government to government basis, that the American government should in no way move against certain Canadian corporations, including Crown corporations, as a result of the grand jury deliberations?

● (1152)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asks if we contacted some agency or department of the American government. Of course we did, and we are very pleased that there is no indictment or any charge of misdemeanour against any Canadian corporation.

Mr. Clark: What was the nature of the contact?

Mr. Trudeau: If the Leader of the Opposition has a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I suggest you recognize him.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York-Simcoe.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, I will assist the Prime Minister once again. Would he elaborate, for the benefit of the House, on the nature of the government's contact and, specifically, why did they request that no action be taken with respect to the Canadian companies?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we did not make that specific request. What we indicated was that we would take a very dim view if American law were to be interpreted in some way as to apply to Canada, and we objected to the extraterritorial application of American law.

Mr. Clark: Just as you object to the application of Canadian law.

Mr. Trudeau: Again, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition wants to get in on this. I wish you would recognize him, because it is getting closer and closer to twelve o'clock.

An hon. Member: It is 2 minutes to 12.

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ELECTIONS

APPLICATION OF EXPENSES ALREADY INCURRED FOR FORTHCOMING BY-ELECTIONS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, now that the leader of the government has indicated his great