

HUMAN RIGHTS

TRIAL OF VICTOR BRAILOVSKY IN U.S.S.R.—REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVER

Mr. David Smith (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the Victor Brailovsky case. Considering the importance of the Brailovsky case in terms of human rights, and in view of the slanted information one gets from Soviet news agencies which cover these show trials, does the minister plan to instruct the Canadian ambassador to seek official observer status for one of our diplomats, as was done in the Shcharansky trial, in order to ensure impartiality of the information which the minister and his department will receive on this matter?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Brailovsky case is one of those on which we have already made representations to the Soviet Union. I have already instructed our ambassador to seek this status at the trial in Moscow.

I should point out that on a previous occasion when observer status was requested during the Shcharansky trial, our observer was not allowed into the courtroom. In any event, we intend to seek such status and attempt to have him attend the trial.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

RELOCATION OF RADIOACTIVE SOIL NEAR BANCROFT, ONT.

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. It concerns the contaminated radioactive soil from Scarborough and its proposed relocation to the Madawaska mine site near Bancroft in Hastings County against the wishes of the local residents. Does the minister concur with his colleagues, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Public Works on this proposed relocation? Also, can the minister confirm or deny the existence of arsenic in this soil?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes, and the answer to the second part is that I will have to check and find out.

POSSIBLE DANGERS TO ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also addressed to the same minister. In light of the minister's apparent strong stand on the problem of acid rain, will he use his offices to look into the possible serious consequences of this other threat to our environment, namely, the dumping of radioactive wastes in the Bancroft area?

Oral Questions

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I believe it is true to say that the Atomic Energy Control Board is looking into this matter very carefully. I will be very happy to express an interest and to find out for myself just what the facts of the situation are and to make some assessment of it.

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AVIATION SAFETY

COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF TEAM DEALING WITH DUBIN REPORT

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. For the first time in history the ten aviation associations in Canada are unanimous in their approach to the formation of an aviation safety tribunal. Last week they asked the minister to table the terms of reference of the implementation team and to include representatives of the industry on this team and to exclude Mr. McLeish from it. Given this unanimity, would the minister now take the necessary steps to change his implementation team, and will he also table the terms of reference?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, on the last subject the terms of reference have been sent to the group either yesterday or today. They are going out, and there is no secret about these terms.

On the substance of the question, as I said in the House the other day, those associations which came to see me made the case that they, as associations, should be part of the committee for the implementation of the Dubin report. I begged to disagree with that because if that were to take place we could have a repeat of the Dubin inquiry, and that is not what is needed at this time. Then I made the case that, because my department is going to be involved in the implementation of the Dubin report, the head of the air administration had to be a member of the advisory committee in order to help me with the implementation of it.

Incidentally, I was very pleased to see the degree of unanimity that existed among the air associations on the quality and the value of the Dubin report.

TIMETABLE FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, there is that degree of unanimity, but it is only in an attempt to get the report implemented. It is their very clear opinion that Mr. McLeish and the team will delay the implementation. If this indeed is, first, an implementation team, will the minister give us a timetable for that implementation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the committee will work as one, and even if Mr. McLeish wanted, he could not hold-up the consensus that will develop within that group of people.