

member for Gloucester that the same proposal is available to any other provincial government across Canada. If they have proposals by which we could engage in using funds under Section 38 of the Unemployment Insurance Act along with provincial contributions, we could put a number of workers in the forest industry back to work in local projects. We are also prepared to look at other work-creation projects of a similar kind which could be funded under the criteria of that program. We can use that fund as a way of enabling a number of workers in many of our key natural resource sectors to go back to work.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### APPLICATION BY ONTARIO HYDRO TO INCREASE EXPORT OF ELECTRICITY

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment, and it has to do with proposals Ontario Hydro has had before the National Energy Board for seven, eight or ten days. First, I would like to ask the minister why the federal argument was so pitifully weak in opposing Ontario Hydro's application to increase the sale of electricity to New Jersey—which, indeed, will increase acid precipitation in Ontario and in the United States—when Ontario Hydro's submission was so strong?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, I question the assumption in the hon. gentleman's question. The original presentation by Environment Canada to the National Energy Board was indeed brief, but that representation was supplemented the following week by very considerable depositions of both material and expert testimony, which were very full and, I believe, effective.

#### INSTALLATION OF ANTI-POLLUTION DEVICES

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, if the deal goes through, the result will be an increase in acid precipitation coming out of such plants as Nanticoke, and that will go directly into Pennsylvania and upstate New York. In view of the fact that that will destroy completely the credibility of the acid rain subcommittee, which spent several hundred thousand dollars of taxpayers' money to produce an excellent report a few months ago, as well as destroy our credibility in the United States, what measures will the minister take now at the cabinet level to make sure Ontario Hydro does not increase exports of power to the United States before the federal government has assurances that scrubbers will be placed on Nanticoke or any other thermal generating power plant in Ontario, and that acid rain precipitation will not increase but in fact decrease, which would be in keeping with the acid rain report?

### Oral Questions

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Madam Speaker, we have made it very clear on several occasions that we are entirely opposed to this application because of the consequences the hon. member has described. Indeed, we made that abundantly clear last week in reply to questions in the House of Commons. I suspect the hon. member would be one of the first to complain if I were to attempt to pre-empt procedures which are already established for the hearing of these questions before the National Energy Board. We have made the case there as effectively as we could. I am confident of the validity of that case. We must now await the decision of the National Energy Board and, if necessary, we will then consider whether further actions need to be taken.

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### THE JUDICIARY

#### REQUEST THAT WOMAN BE APPOINTED TO SUPREME COURT

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In our 114 years of history there never has been a woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. This week a vacancy will be created by the resignation of Mr. Justice Martland. Given that women have served with distinction in the superior and supreme courts of the provinces since 1969, will the Prime Minister now take this opportunity available to him to appoint a qualified woman, of whom there are a number, to the Supreme Court of Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is, of course, right in referring to the distinguished role many women have played in the superior and appeal courts of our provinces, and she will recall that just about every one of them was appointed by this government, so she can be assured that in the consideration of the upcoming vacancy in the Supreme Court of Canada we will be as objective and openminded as regards the sexes as we were in relation to those previous appointments.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

• (1500)

#### IMBALANCE IN APPOINTMENTS

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, there are some 666 federally appointed judges throughout Canada, of whom only 26 are women, even though the number of qualified women in the legal profession has increased significantly in the last number of years. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he will take steps now to rectify the imbalance in these appointments. At the present time 96 per cent of the appointments are men, while only 4 per cent are women. He now has a very real opportunity to begin to redress this imbalance, because there are 23 vacancies in judicial appointments at the present time.