

Oral Questions

ence on these issues leading up to today's dramatic events.

Surely this profound progress on the world's stage in which Canada has had a part will intensify the commitment and the creative energy of all Canadians to the continued building of our own country as a leading model among nations of racial and linguistic tolerance in a caring, compassionate and civilized society.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question this Friday morning is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Environment Minister, who is not here this morning, is well known as the great expert on by-elections. He promised his own riding more than \$160 million to ensure his own election on June 20, 1988. But as the Deputy Prime Minister well knows, only the Prime Minister's prestige friends are entitled to such special treatment.

After promising for months that he would find a solution to the problem of the PCB containers which are still in Saint-Basile-le-Grand, the Environment Minister told the people of that community very recently that the cost would be so huge that it could not be justified, even in an election campaign. That is what the Environment Minister said.

My question for the Deputy Prime Minister is: If the government can provide a safe seat for the Environment Minister, why is it unable to provide safe living conditions for the people of Saint-Basile-le-Grand?

[*English*]

Mr. Lee Clark (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment I would remind the right hon. member that the federal government has already contributed some \$2 million in services to the people in the area and, furthermore, it is agreed to provide compensation in partnership with the province of Quebec. Those negotiations are still occurring. I might add that we have not as yet received a package from the

province of Quebec indicating what its request will be of us.

[*Translation*]

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, again I address the Deputy Prime Minister, hoping for a reply. To show his alleged commitment to the environment and recycling programs, the government is recycling its old promises.

In 1988, the government promised to convert part of the firing range in Chambly into a green space. Now the Environment Minister is making the same promise again for this by-election. But only two years ago, eight soldiers were injured by a buried shell which exploded when they made a campfire. Will the Environment Minister stop manipulating the voters of Chambly? Why did he not ensure that the place was completely safe before recycling his own program?

[*English*]

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the question of the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. Of course, as he knows we have reached an arrangement whereby 85 hectares of the 512-hectare St. Bruno site will be transferred under the jurisdiction of the parks department. It is on the hillside to enable public access to that area which the public had been requesting for a number of years.

I would like to assure him that that range is only used for firing with blank ammunition. No live shells are used in the firing exercises at St. Bruno.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Collins: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to remind the right hon. Leader of the Opposition that the incident to which he referred did not occur at the St. Bruno firing range. It occurred at Val Cartier which, of course, is quite a different place. So we can assure the public that there is no danger in the public utilization of the St. Bruno range. I am sure that it is going to be a very welcome addition for recreational activities for the people of Chambly.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that once more this government, when it comes to a by-election, shoots nothing but blanks in order to get votes.

Some hon. members: Oh, Oh!