

units in the Burrard Thermal Generating Plant will greatly increase the pollution. In fact, this would be the equivalent of adding 110,000 car emissions daily to the air in the Fraser Valley.

Will the Minister consider the effect on the environment in the valley, especially Chilliwack, when making the decision whether or not to reissue the permit to B.C. Hydro for energy exports using the Burrard Thermal Generating Plant?

Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the question of the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East is indeed a good one. He has made good representations to the Government on a number of occasions. I would like to remind him that in 1980, B.C. Hydro applied for export permits to export electricity to the United States. At that time the Government issued the necessary permits through the National Energy Board but would not allow exports to come from the Burrard plant because it lacked pollution controls.

Since that time pollution controls have been put in place and they have been issued the necessary permits and licence from the British Columbia Government. As recently as last month the National Energy Board agreed to increase the exports from B.C. Hydro using the Burrard plant because it had installed these necessary pollution controls. The Minister is now looking at that decision.

* * *

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HALIFAX HARBOUR SEWAGE PROJECT

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. It concerns a matter that crosses departmental jurisdiction. On February 5, 1987, the Minister of Finance said in the House that municipal infrastructure is the responsibility of the municipalities and the provinces. Yesterday we had the announcement in Halifax of a much needed municipal sewage treatment facility paid for in part by the federal Government. Given that the Canadian Federation of Municipalities has been calling for a federal-provincial-municipal program like the one the Government developed for Halifax for every city in this country, would the Prime Minister now agree that the time has come to help rebuild our cities?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Finance have made the Government's position clear on this matter. The particular circumstances in Halifax were quite unique, and the Hon. Member knows the uniqueness behind the Halifax example.

Mr. Broadbent: Yes, a provincial election.

Oral Questions

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the community I come from is also putting raw sewage into the harbours of the Great Lakes. There are other cities which are doing the same thing. Each city has unique reasons for needing federal help. Is it not now time for the federal Government to accept its responsibility on environmental aspects and provide municipalities with the necessary funds to clean up our water, whether it is what we send out or take in, to ensure our cities are healthy and safe?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well that what is being done for the Halifax harbour is a technological prototype of major importance for Canada. We are delighted for what it means as a demonstration project for Canada. We are delighted for what it means for the harbour of Halifax.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Welland on a single question.

* * *

TRADE

LIBERAL POLICY

Mr. Allan Pietz (Welland): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Official Opposition first said he would tear up the free trade agreement. Then he said he would renegotiate it. Then he said there would be no bilateral agreement. The Hon. Member for Montreal—Saint-Marie now says they would negotiate bilateral agreements with many countries. Could the Minister for International Trade clarify for the Canadian public what the Liberal policy on trade really is?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Robinson: Order Paper!

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have ever been asked to perform a miracle in this House. It is impossible to tell what policy they have with respect to free trade because, for example, the Liberal Whip saw some irony in the thought that Mr. Turner, who wanted to rip up the free trade agreement in Washington, is now going to—

Some Hon. Members: More, more!

Mr. Broadbent: That's pretty good, John.

Mr. Crosbie: I was surprised I got this far.

Mr. Speaker: It was a good try.