

taken to ensure that in the future no similar circumstances occur anywhere in Canada, irrespective of jurisdiction.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, in answer to an earlier question the Hon. Minister boasted about the Environmental Protection Act passed by the Government being in force on June 30. Yet he has been unable to explain why it had no impact in preventing the disaster at Saint-Basile-le-Grand. The Minister also said that the storage of PCBs at Saint-Basile-le-Grand was primarily a provincial responsibility.

● (1500)

Why was it that on August 26, in the *Ottawa Citizen*, the following quote was attributed to the Minister of the Environment:

There's a collective responsibility between the federal government and the provinces to ensure that people's health is secure in the face of this kind of possibility," McMillan said.

He was speaking about the catastrophe at Saint-Basile-le-Grande. Why is the Minister contradicting his colleague, the Minister of the Environment, in not accepting the reality that there is a federal responsibility in these matters as in Saint-Basile-le-Grand and across the country? Why is the Government not accepting that responsibility and taking action, not only to prevent cases like that in Saint-Basile-le-Grand but to prevent future cases across the country since it has supposedly an inventory of PCB storage sites all across this land?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I do not see the logic in my hon. friend's trend of thought. But I guess that's obvious to everybody. Nevertheless, I do not think I was boasting about the particular Act that was passed and adopted on June 30, 1988. I was simply indicating that this Government, contrary to the former Government, took action. We finally came in with a Bill that was passed and adopted by the House which gives us the tools to deal with such situations. Those tools did not exist under the previous Government. Not only will we exercise our responsibility in federal jurisdiction but obviously, as we have been able to do since 1984, the Government will continue to work with the provinces in order to protect Canadian health and safety whenever possible.

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FINANCE

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTRODUCE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING SPECULATION TAX

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. He should be aware that one of the best ways to cool off inflationary pressures in the Metro Toronto area without raising interest

rates would be to institute a residential housing speculation tax.

Will the Minister give us his undertaking that the Government will institute such a tax in order to fight inflation in the Metro Toronto area and in southern Ontario, without discouraging economic growth in other parts of Canada by increasing interest rates?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, it might be helpful to the Hon. Member if I reminded him of the number of steps taken under the tax reform leadership shown by the Minister of Finance with regard to measures that will inhibit speculation on real estate.

The measures involved include the elimination of MURB's, the increase in the inclusion rate for capital gains, the reduction in the capital cost allowance rate for real estate from 5 per cent to 4 per cent, and the introduction of the cumulative net investment loss account to discourage excessive sheltering of ordinary income.

Finally, as the Hon. Member knows, the Government continues to support, as do the majority of Canadians, the exemption of principal residences from capital gains taxation.

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HEALTH

PROPOSED LOCATION OF LABORATORY CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The Minister appointed an expert committee with industrial and scientific capacity to make a recommendation with regard to the location of the laboratory centre for disease control in Winnipeg. This committee recommended that the centre be located near the medical school and the Health Sciences Centre.

The Tory MP's from Manitoba got together and unanimously recommended that the centre go to St. Boniface, which is presently held by a Conservative Member of Parliament. Will the Minister respect the recommendation of his committee, play straight with Winnipeggers, and locate the centre where it had been recommended by the expert committee, or will he simply play pork-barrel politics with this centre for disease control?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for the question. I appreciate that he has changed his view since we first announced the LCDC coming to Winnipeg when he did not think it was all that important. Now he feels that it is important. As I said in Winnipeg and elsewhere in Manitoba, an announcement will be made when there is a decision. I will not tell it to him directly today.