

*Oral Questions*

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada is anxious to implement agreements in the forestry sector, based on the prevailing situation in that sector. Depending on the speed with which our government receives a reply, we may have to consider options other than this particular type of agreement.

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• (1450)

*[English]***THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment.

As he knows, in Saskatchewan, the Rafferty-Alameda dam proceeds without a completed environmental assessment. In Alberta, the Oldman River dam proceeds without a completed environmental assessment. In British Columbia, Alcan's Kemano II project, dams and diversions, proceeds without a completed environmental assessment.

Why should Canadians expect that Quebec's James Bay II dams and diversions will be subjected to a meaningful environmental assessment when none of the dams and diversions in western Canada are and when the National Energy Board has already approved the export licences for James Bay II power to the United States?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I believe I have already given the answer to that question.

In each case we want to ensure that the environmental concerns of Canadians are met. We are doing that in different circumstances and in different ways.

I can only say to my hon. colleague that the best way he and his party could help in this process is to support strongly Bill C-78 which is now before the House.

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The National Round Table of which the minister and the Minister of Finance are members has already dumped on Bill C-78 and that process. I hope he is not suggesting that we should pass it as it is. It is a giant Swiss cheese.

Will the minister assure the House that the same full public inquiry and environmental assessment process that will be applied apparently to James Bay II will be applied to Alcan's Kemano II and that these assessments will be completed and made public before construction proceeds, even if that means delay, modification, or cancellation of part or all of these projects due to environmental concerns?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. member that this government will satisfy itself that the due environmental review is done in a way to satisfy the public's concern about the environment on all these projects.

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*[Translation]***TRADE**

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Supérieur):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On June 13, he stated in the House that the Minister for International Trade would inform the Americans of this government's intention to renegotiate the memorandum of agreement on lumber, to eliminate the 15 per cent surtax. On October 11, the Minister for International Trade met his American counterpart. Could the Secretary of State tell this House, for the benefit of producers and workers in Canada's lumber industry, whether he honoured the commitment he made in June?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that we honoured the commitments we made here in the House. This is a difficult matter, as the hon. member and the House are well aware, and we will keep looking for ways to achieve the objectives of Canadian producers.

*[English]*

**Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the industry and I have been hearing this song and dance for the last two years.

In the meantime another sawmill went into receivership last week. Another one closed before it went bankrupt. Seven mills have closed. Two thousand jobs have been lost.