Oral Questions

ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES

CONCENTRATION OF RADIOACTIVE URANIUM AT CIGAR LAKE

Mr. Ray Funk (Prince Albert—Churchill River): Mr. Speaker, because the best way to deal with cancer is to prevent it, I would like to direct my supplementary to the other "A" student in the cabinet, the Minister of the Environment.

In light of the fact that the ore body at the proposed Cigar Lake uranium mine in my constituency is up to 800 times as concentrated and radioactive as the one at Elliot Lake, and since full-scale public hearings are being held in the Northwest Territories with respect to the Baker Lake mine which is not nearly as problematic as Cigar Lake, will the Minister undertake a public inquiry into the Cigar Lake Mine as requested yesterday in Saskatoon by Greenpeace and the steelworkers?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can comment with respect to the Member's direct request but we will look at it.

I say to him that whether one looks at Rabbit Lake or Cluff Lake, and now Cigar Lake, Canada, specifically the Province of Saskatchewan is sitting on a mine of great value for energy for the future. I point out to the Member as well that it was the former NDP Government of Saskatchewan that first started the development of those mines. When we develop those mines we will make sure not only that health and safety is protected but also that Canada's energy future is advanced.

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AGRICULTURE

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION REQUIREMENTS – DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ONTARIO FARMERS ALLEGED

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Will he stop discriminating against Canadian farmers, and against Ontario farmers in particular? The Farm Credit Corporation is asking farmers in Ontario to sign covenants when they are negotiating settlements. These covenants are illegal in some provinces.

One middle-aged farmer in my constituency who lost his hands is being asked to sign a covenant for \$140,000. He is being charged interest on interest on overdue accounts. He is being pushed to accept a deal that will let him keep his home and 50 acres of land plus a mortgage of \$150,000 and a covenant of another \$140,000. This is a direct contravention of the Charter of Rights.

Will the Minister stop this cold-hearted action, stop this discrimination and return the Farm Credit Corporation to its rightful place as a credible lender?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that the Farm Credit Corporation and this Government has not discriminated against any farmers in Ontario or anywhere else and is not doing so.

Mr. Ferguson: Alberta farmers don't sign them.

Mr. Mazankowski: The Hon. Member raises a very important matter. I will be glad to look into it personally. I hope he treats it seriously. I will treat it seriously and I ask him to bring the matter to my attention and I will be glad to look into it in detail.

* * * EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESIDENT HERZOG'S VISIT – CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ISRAEL

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerns the visit of President Herzog to Canada.

Could the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the House whether he has taken the opportunity, or intends to take the opportunity during President Herzog's visit, to express to the President a concern that many Canadians have over human rights violations in the occupied territories by Israel.

I think that many of us felt in the remarks this morning made by the Prime Minister prior to the speech that the Government treaded a little too softly on that issue. I hope the Minister will be taking the opportunity to make