

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****GREAT LAKES—SHORE-LINE FLOODING IN KENT RIDING**

**Mr. Elliott Hardey (Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. It deals with continuing shore-line flooding in my riding which is part of the Great Lakes basin, particularly during the storm of December 2. Recognizing that this is a problem which calls for a long-term solution, could the Minister indicate to the House what action he is taking toward identifying such long-term measures?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Canada shares the Hon. Member's deep concern on this matter. He will appreciate that the situation in Lake Erie is a little unlike that in Lake Ontario and Lake Superior in the sense that the lake itself cannot be regulated as to the water level. However, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I are exploring together ways in which our two Departments can act urgently on the matter directly, and indirectly through the International Joint Commission. In the meantime, because the matter is very largely within provincial jurisdiction, I have met with Vince Kerrio, my counterpart, the Minister responsible for natural resources, and we have earmarked \$8.4 million on an urgent basis for damage reduction. We are exploring how we can co-operate in other ways as well.

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**IMMIGRATION****VISA AND WORK PERMIT FEES**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Immigration. Last year the Government dramatically increased the fees for individuals seeking Canadian citizenship. Now the Government is imposing fees for visas sought by immigrants, students, workers and visitors wanting to come to Canada. Given that this is another regressive move by a Minister who should be an advocate for his constituency rather than act as the Minister of Finance, is he prepared to abandon this immigration tax fully? If he is after revenues, why does he not tax the phoney immigration consultants who are raking in thousands of dollars on the backs of innocent individuals?

**Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member should inform himself of the facts. The Government is not in fact imposing any processing fees on refugees, short-term visitors or students at this time. What we have here is a partial cost recovery. This processing fee is in line with what other countries are doing. There is no evidence that it will in any way impede the immigration flow into Canada. Those who are coming are being asked to pay only a third of the cost. This is a processing cost, not a cost for a visa.

**GOVERNMENT POLICY**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, it is a disgrace that Canadians are being asked to pay \$125 to try to bring in their mothers and fathers to this country; it is simply a disgrace. Does the Minister honestly feel that this fee is a fair and morally acceptable one and that it does not run counter to the plans of increasing immigration and enhancing his colleague's plan of strengthening the tourist industry?

**Hon. Walter McLean (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member cannot have it both ways. On the one hand he stands and tells the Government that we must maintain the human face of the Government, that we must maintain the services to those least able to protect themselves. In this particular case we have underlined our humanitarian concerns for refugees. We are examining the student aspects, and we are merely offsetting the cost here by assessing those who can afford to pay a portion of it. If Canadian citizenship is worth anything those who wish to immigrate, they will be ready to pay this portion of the cost, and that is all that is being asked.

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● (1450)

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****GREAT LAKES WATER LEVELS**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In response to the United States State Department request for Canadian help in controlling Great Lakes water levels and serious flooding, Ontario Hydro was to reduce flows into Lake Superior from the Ogoki reservoir. Will the Secretary of State indicate Canada's response to allegations from the American portion of the International Joint Commission and the State Department that Ontario Hydro, in effect, reneged on that agreement?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member is referring to a report in a Detroit newspaper. That newspaper report is false.

**LAKE ERIE—INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION STUDY**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, I think the matter does bear a more careful look than has been indicated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Nevertheless, I have a supplementary question which is directed to the Secretary of State with respect to Canada's role in controlling levels in the Great Lakes, and, therefore, serious flooding. Will the Secretary of State agree with the request by the International Joint Commission and the U.S. State Department for Canadian participation in a joint reference to the International Joint Commission to reopen the IJC study on full regulation of Lake Erie levels?