

Oral Questions

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, I always heed the advice I receive from the hon. member. Just a week ago he advised me, in very strong terms, not to tell tales out of school. I would ask him, therefore, simply to wait for the bill to be tabled. I can assure him that there will be in the bill not only a commitment to freedom of information but a commitment to an independent form of review.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW YORK**

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs perhaps I could put my question to the acting minister, the Minister of National Defence. My question centres on Ken Taylor and it is a very simple one.

As it has been reported that there is a possible posting for Mr. Taylor as consul general in New York, would the minister indicate if this is under consideration? If so, why cannot it be announced without any further delay?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I have great admiration for Mr. Taylor and what he has done in the name of Canada. As acting secretary of state for external affairs, I think I can tell the hon. member that there has been some discussion about this but no decision has yet been taken. I think Mr. Taylor is capable of going to New York or any other place suitable to his qualifications: he is a good man.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, we certainly agree with the minister that Ken Taylor is a good man. In view of his immense good will in the United States, I will put my supplementary question to the Secretary of State for Trade.

Would the minister agree that if Mr. Taylor had a suitable appointment, say that of consul general in New York, it would have an immense bearing on some of the negotiations now taking place in the United States and, in particular, on the auto pact negotiations that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is now engaged in?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of State, Trade): Madam Speaker, my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, is very knowledgeable about the qualifications of Mr. Taylor. I think wherever Mr. Taylor is posted will be of benefit to Canada.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**DANGER OF NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPED BY UNITED STATES—
EFFECT ON CANADIAN WATERS**

Mr. Al MacBain (Niagara Falls): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, but in his absence I shall put it to his parliamentary secretary. Is he aware that two nuclear waste dumps have been recently identified in New York state in the immediate vicinity of the Niagara River? If so, would he assure this House that steps are being taken by Environment Canada to ascertain whether the presence of such dumps poses a further threat to the water supply of Niagara on the Lake, in particular, and in general to the quality of life in my riding arising from possible air pollution from such dumps?

Mr. Roger Simmons (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I am aware of the press reports on the existence of this second nuclear waste dump. Our officials are presently checking the accuracy of the reports. The information on the existence of this site comes to light now, I understand, as a result of the declassification in the United States yesterday of a report on the subject dated 1949.

The important question which this raises in so far as Canada's concerns are involved is the implications for water quality in the Niagara area and, in particular, the implications this information may have for two agreements between Canada and the United States, namely, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the Boundary Waters Treaty. We have these matters under advisement.

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**METHANOL SPILL IN WINNIPEG—CALL FOR CTC INQUIRY**

Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On Easter Sunday, April 6, a methanol spill occurred in the CPR yards in Winnipeg. This spill, along with similar spills in Mississauga and Macgregor, Manitoba, has raised serious questions about the continued safety of all residents of Winnipeg.

Given the impossibility of evacuating the whole of the city of Winnipeg, and the call on June 4 by Winnipeg city council for a Canadian Transport Commission formal inquiry, will the minister direct the CTC to hold an inquiry, with full subpoena powers, so as to ensure the continued safety of the people of Winnipeg?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the CTC has inquired about this spill. I shall make sure that my hon. friend receives a copy of their views as soon as I get them myself.

Mr. Keeper: Madam Speaker, I hope the minister will make that inquiry soon. Not only the safety of the residents of the