

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****DUMPING OF TOXIC SUBSTANCE IN RESTIGOUCHE RIVER**

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment who, I am sure, is aware by now that some 575 gallons of fenitratrion, Atlox, and Dowanol were dumped into the Restigouche River the night before last. It is enough to spray 4,000 acres. The U.S. label for fenitratrion states:

This product is toxic to fish, birds and other wildlife. Birds and other wildlife in treated areas may be killed. Avoid direct application to lakes, ponds and streams.

Since fenitratrion has been found to cause mutations and chromosome aberrations in human cells, and since the salmon fishery in the Restigouche, which is an internationally renowned river, is opening up a week from today, is the Minister planning to encourage his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to close that river temporarily to sports fishing?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, we think that this is a serious situation. We are examining it closely. I am not yet able to report to the Hon. Member or the House what action we would recommend.

MONITORING OF WILDLIFE KILLED IN BUDWORM SPRAYING PROGRAM

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, as the Minister is no doubt aware, this year's budworm spraying program in New Brunswick comes hard on the heels of the facts released by Statistics Canada that the cancer rate in New Brunswick is double that in areas bordering it that are not being sprayed. I am sure he is also aware that the spraying program has been demonstrated to do nothing other than to maintain epidemic proportions of budworms in New Brunswick.

In light of the fact that he released funds earlier this year to test the effects of acid rain on rabbits' eyes, will the Minister inform the House whether he plans to monitor the death rate of birds and other wildlife from the spraying, keeping in mind his international responsibility under the Migratory Birds Convention?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I will look into the Hon. Member's representations.

REQUEST THAT RIVER STUDY BE INITIATED

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, my question is for the same Minister. Will he give the House assurances that there will be a thorough analysis of the situation in the Restigouche River and that he will not simply recommend that the sports fishery be closed, which would be pretty devastating economically to those earning a living there, and simply not respond to the hysteria of the Hon. Member from the NDP?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that we will undertake a serious, thorough, and responsible review of this situation. We will not urge or recommend actions which respond to hysteria.

The Members of the House know that the decision to spray or not to spray is one which is in provincial hands. Members also know that, in terms of impact, there are Departments other than Environment Canada that are concerned. I think the responsible course of action is to take these reports seriously and investigate them before coming to any rapid conclusion as to what action, if any, should be taken.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS**AUDITOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION—CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL**

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will know that the Auditor General stated in public today with respect to the Canadair affair:

Bills C-153 on Crown corporations and C-158 on CDIC legislation do not go far enough to prevent a repetition of this tragic affair.

In view of that clear statement by the Auditor General, will the Prime Minister and the Government withdraw Bill C-153 and Bill C-158 and have those Bills re-engrossed to comply with the requirements of the Auditor General concerning accountability?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, on Bill C-153 the Hon. Member will recall that it was the result of us dividing the earlier Bill in a way which accommodated the Opposition. They wanted the Bill to be divided, and we divided it.

Mr. Lewis: Split.

Mr. Trudeau: We split it.

I have not seen the Auditor General's statements. I am happy to look at them. If he made those statements, it will be one man's opinion.

CANADAIR—AUDITING OF CORPORATION'S ACCOUNTS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister will know that the Auditor General is Parliament's servant. Would the Prime Minister also note, when he reads that statement, that it goes on to say:

What we have here is a costly experiment about which Parliament and the public received little relevant and realistic information.

The Auditor General states that if the accounts had been audited in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, the Government, Parliament, and the public would not have suffered this massive loss as it would have been stopped earlier. In view of that statement will the Prime Minister do something