

*Adjournment Debate*

as a result of that. We know that train derailments have not stopped. In fact, there are on average two train derailments in Canada every month. If it happens that chemicals are being carried on those trains, obviously there will be the potential for another Mississauga disaster or something even more significant.

We know as well that back in 1982 there was a blowout at a sour gas well in Lodgepole, Alberta, and that one person was killed as a result. Thousands of people were sickened by the fumes from that leak. We know that earlier this year, there was a PCB spill near Kenora, Ontario. We know that there is also a great potential for disaster with the chemical dumps along the American side of the Niagara River. Those chemical dumps being the Love Canal, Hyde Park, S Area and the 102nd Street dumps. We also know that there are many mini-spills occurring all the time.

● (1850)

In my own community we have experienced three of these spills in the last very few years. One of them resulted in a fire at the Bate Chemical plant in my community. Another one just two or three years ago occurred at the Bristol-Meyers plant where there was a chemical spill into the sewer system which flowed into the Don River. That resulted in the pollution of a portion of Lake Ontario. Not more than a year and one-half ago there was another chemical spill at the Nuodex plant in my own community. All of these spills have indicated to me the great potential for disaster which can occur on the spur of the moment, quite unexpectedly.

I am concerned about what we are doing about these matters in our own country and in our own provinces. We are doing something. I know that the Government has taken certain action. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) indicated in the House a short while ago that he intended to establish a task force on the transportation of dangerous commodities by rail through metropolitan Toronto and area. I am looking forward to seeing that task force established in the very near future.

As well, we know that there are currently negotiations ongoing between the EPA in the United States and Environment Canada. We also know that there was a task force set up to investigate industrial chemical spills with a view to seeing what potential is for similar spills in Canada, similar to the one which occurred in Bhopal, India.

On December 10 I asked the Parliamentary Secretary what recommendations the task force had made and when they were likely to be made public. At that time he indicated that he expected they would be made public very soon. The Parliamentary Secretary is here with us tonight. I am hoping he will advise exactly what those recommendations were and when they will be made public. Canadians are waiting and hoping for an answer so that we can be sure to avert other potential disasters such as the one which occurred in Bhopal, India.

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the

Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) for his question. He is very consistent in the attention which he pays to this type of matter. He asks the best questions and, hopefully, he receives some of the better answers.

His question specifically relates to the Bhopal incident, but really includes all types of industrial accidents. No one in Canada escaped a sense of emotion over the vulnerability we might have to a big accident. The Hon. Member quite correctly points out a number of smaller incidents which may be occurring on a daily basis without our knowledge.

With respect to the substance of the question in terms of the task force, four days after the Bhopal incident we initiated at the federal level, in co-operation with the provinces, an approach to the problem. The approach was the establishment of the task force which commenced its study in March of 1985, and concluded in July of 1985. That task force consulted with a whole range of interested parties—if we can call them that—across the country. There were really three working groups which came together and produced this report, which is now being assessed, and those working groups first looked at a whole list of areas where in fact we might have a vulnerability, where we could experience accidents. One of the groups looked at procedures which are now in place to try to manage those incidents if they should occur. A third group looked at the strategies and levels of responsibilities between jurisdictions and so on. So all of those factions have come together to bring that report forward.

● (1855)

In short, what they have indicated is that we do have some problems. They have made a specific series of recommendations, all of which are being considered by that broad range of interests which I indicated in the previous answer.

We will in fact, federally, through the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan), be releasing that assessment and the final report with recommendations by the end of January, 1986. I believe that will help to make sure that in the future in so far as possible, and within the jurisdiction and limitations we have at the federal level, we are meeting as fully as possible our obligations to prevent that kind of thing happening in Canada.

I would like to say in conclusion that we have had excellent co-operation from the provinces and from the industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS—GREAT LAKES CHEMICAL TOXICITY. (B) GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder how much more the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) knows that he didn't know before having received that reply.

The Royal Society of Canada produced a week ago a very important and far reaching report on the Great Lakes and on the agreement we made with the Americans. It analysed what is happening in that eco-system and put forward a number of